Updating China's Science And Technology

Premier Zhao on Sino-US Relations

Spring Festival Decorations
Successful African Visit

All commercial newspapers in Japan have published articles praising the visit of Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang and his party to Africa. The success of the visit cannot be denied. During his visit, Premier Zhao elaborated China's positions on self-reliance and South-South co-operation. Has there ever been such a successful trip made by a leader of any Western developed country?

Kazuhiko Mitomi
Niigata, Japan

New Economic Policy

I am impressed by the spectacularly successful new economic policies introduced after the end of the disastrous “cultural revolution” and I am sure that China will more than quadruple its gross annual value of agricultural and industrial production by the year 2000 provided it succeeds in limiting the growth of its population.

China's achievements since liberation are tremendous and the Chinese people, government and the Communist Party are united in their determination to further raise living standards and improve the quality of life. I hope they continue to be successful.

I am very interested in China's 55 national minorities, their populations, which provinces they live in, how (and if) their languages are written (an alphabet of so many letters or word pictures like Chinese), how many books, newspapers and periodicals are published in their languages, and so on. As Beijing Review is running a “Facts and Figures” column at irregular intervals, maybe you could publish information about China's national minorities in one of these columns.

A.J. Mayes
Staffs, UK

We have listed the topic of national minorities in this year's plan. — Ed

Independent Foreign Policy

I'd like to express my opinion on the article “Adhere to Independent Foreign Policy” in issue No. 46, 1982.

China has abundant natural resources and many talented people. I hope it can become a powerful country. Nevertheless, I have my concerns. At present, confrontation between the Soviet Union and the United States aggravates the international situation. There is a need for a powerful country which can stand up in the middle of the two hegemonist powers. It can be said the most suitable country to play the role is China. The two superpowers are now doing all they can to collect vassal states in an attempt to divide the world into two. I think the principle of “self-reliance” is the best way to resist aggression of the superpowers. In addition, China's maintaining of its independent policy of opening to the outside world is indispensable in improving exchanges with other countries.

Sikiko Kurata
Kumamoto, Japan

Global Picture

My main reason for reading Beijing Review is to balance the viewpoint in AP and UPI sources. Editorial policy determines subjectivity in journalism — it cannot be eliminated, but by comparing disparate policies, I often find that the global picture becomes clearer.

I have worked in developing countries and am impressed with China's strides in social and economic transformation.

This planet is in trouble and the only solution that I see is global harmony. I have read Beijing Review over the years and I like the way it has grown.

Maurice M. Giosseff
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

International Articles

I think the “International” column, which reflects China's position towards world issues, is not well organized and is oversimplified. Moreover, it too often is glorification, especially when reporting on the third world. In such articles, priority should be given to class struggle and expressing the main differences between socialist and feudal-capitalist developing countries. Social evils should be severely condemned. In addition, you should pay more attention to the economic policies of multinational corporations.

Herbert Jorns
Basel, Switzerland

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Planning Parenthood for the Nation

China's goal is to keep its population within 1,200 million by the end of this century. This special feature examines the population control drive and its potential for success (p. 21).

Science and Technology Advances

The fifth of the "Chinese-Type Modernization" series explains the country's measures to shift all sectors of the national economy to an advanced technological basis (p. 14).

Sihanouk Holds News Conference

The Kampuchean leader says he is entitled to attend the non-aligned summit in India and reiterates his people's determination to resist Vietnamese aggressors (p. 10).

Communes Focus on Economic Functions

The separation of commune economic management from political administration and establishment of township governments is conducive to strengthening political power, raising work efficiency and promoting rural economic development (p. 5).

Sino-US Relations

During Shultz's visit to Beijing, Premier Zhao and other Chinese leaders discuss bilateral relations and major international issues with him (p. 8).

Spring Festival Decorations

Many folk arts are created especially for the holidays of the Spring Festival (lunar New Year) like the symbolic New Year pictures that are very popular among peasants (p. 30).
Farewell, big public pots

Recently the Chinese press has frequently criticized the practice of "eating from the big public pot." Please discuss this issue.

"Eating from the big public pot" is the popular metaphor for absolute egalitarianism in distribution, one of the undesirable practices that China seeks to eliminate as part of its current national economic reform.

Before the reform began, each worker or staff member received a fixed wage from his or her enterprise, regardless of work performance. Those who worked hard got the same as those who loafed around — both "ate from the big public pot."

Similar practices characterized relations between enterprises and the state. The only difference was that the state "pot" was much bigger. The state paid the expenditures of all enterprises and collected their revenues, without caring to look into their management.

There were no rewards for well-run enterprises or penalties for poorly managed ones. Even those that suffered financial losses for years running were not blamed for mismanagement but rather continued to live off state subsidies and enjoy all sorts of public welfare benefits.

Chairman Mao Zedong dissected the complex social and historical causes for such absolute egalitarianism decades ago, pointing out that it was the product of a handicraft and small peasant economy.

In On Correcting Mistaken Ideas in the Party written in 1929, he said: "Before the abolition of capitalism, absolute egalitarianism is a mere illusion of peasants and small proprietors, and even under socialism there can be no absolute equality, for material things will then be distributed on the principle of 'from each according to his ability, to each according to his work' as well as on that of meeting the needs of the work." (Selected Works, Vol. I, p. 111.)

When the Chairman wrote these lines, the Communist-led Red Army, fighting a revolutionary war under harsh conditions, adopted a "supply system" according to which the distribution of material things was more or less equal for all officers and soldiers. Even under those circumstances, he said, absolute egalitarianism should be opposed.

After undertaking two wage reforms in 1952 and 1956, China established a distribution system which roughly conformed with the socialist principle "to each according to his work."

However, after the "Left" trend of thought came into vogue in 1958, undue publicity was given to the army's "supply system" while the significance of the wage system was played down.

Then, during the "cultural revolution," things went so far that the principle "to each according to his work" was criticized as a "bourgeois right."

The result? The practice of "eating from the big public pot" became so widespread that it was universally accepted as part of the established socialist system.

Obviously the "big public pot" practice runs counter to the socialist principle of distribution. It serves only backward enterprises and lazy individuals and induces people to blindly follow the beaten track without seeking progress. Thus, for many years, Chinese enterprises lacked vitality and incentive, workers' enthusiasm for work was smothered and their sense of responsibility dulled.

To uproot this practice, it is imperative to completely re-vamp our management system. The industrious should be rewarded and the indolent penalized. This is the purpose of the responsibility system, which combines the interests of the state, the enterprise and the individual. Under this system everyone — from the enterprise manager to the worker — knows his responsibilities, has the means to perform his duties and is given remunerations commensurate with his contributions.

The responsibility system has succeeded beyond all expectations in the rural areas in the last few years; it is now being popularized in industry, commerce and other fields of endeavour.

The Yanguang Machine-Building Plant of Xian in northwest China's Shaanxi Province is a case in point. The factory lost money for years. In 1982, it still received a state subsidy of one million
yuan to cover its losses. After it instituted a contract system in September that year, the factory eliminated all deficits in four months and reaped a 30,000 yuan profit by the end of the year. Success stories like this are not uncommon nowadays in China's mass media.

Will replacing the "big public pot" with the principle of "more pay for more work" lead to class polarization and estrange China from the socialist ideal for equality?

Our answer is a definite "No."

The gap in private incomes may become larger in the beginning, given differences in physical strength, attitude towards work and skills. But in the long run, the lazy will become diligent and those falling behind will push themselves to catch up, thus hastening the growth of production and improving living standards for everyone.

Furthermore, the state and collectives have worked out a series of measures to help those who are physically weak or lagging behind so that when they fail to catch up with others, their basic livelihood is still ensured.

In socialist China, land, factories and mines, as well as most of the large means of production are all state or collective property. No individual is allowed to appropriate them for the exploitation of others. These are fundamental factors that prevent class polarization, the scourge of capitalist countries, from occurring in China.

— Economic Editor Wang Dacheng

Changes in commune system implemented

A major change is taking place in the rural commune management system.

The economic management of the commune is now seen as necessarily a separate task from political administration.

In a move away from the previous arrangement, which lumped the two under one leadership group, 69 of the country's 2,000 counties and cities have established separate township governments.

Before 1958, each county was divided into several township governments. A township government was sub-divided into several agricultural producers' co-operatives embracing scores or several hundred households. Agricultural and other production was organized within each producers' co-operative.

Generally speaking, this form of organization conforms to the development of productive forces at the time. Therefore, agricultural production rapidly developed and the peasants' living standards improved markedly.

Because of inexperience in socialist construction and impetuosity, people's communes were quickly established throughout the country in 1958. They were large and had a higher degree of public ownership than the producers' co-ops. The communes have positively helped construct large-scale water conservancy projects, transform the farmland and develop rural industries and sideline occupations. But on the whole, they also exhibited many weaknesses.

First, they overstepped the developmental level of the productive forces in the countryside, where the peasants mainly relied on manual labour. As a result, peasants lost their initiative and agricultural production suffered.

The Xiangyang commune in southwest China is the first to form a township government.

February 14, 1983
Second, the communes combined government administration with commune management. This system could hardly avoid interference by government organizations in agricultural production. Political power at the grass-roots level was weak, because the rural cadres devoted their main energies to agricultural production.

After the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee held at the end of 1978, the Party summed up the lessons of the “cultural revolution” (1966-76) and began seriously studying the commune system in the rural areas.

With the implementation of various kinds of production responsibility systems in the rural areas, agricultural production is flourishing. The managerial system of the people’s communes no longer meets rural needs.

The first experiments in separating government administration from commune management and establishing township governments were conducted on a limited basis in Sichuan Province in 1979 and then extended to other parts of the country in 1981.

Today, 15 provinces and municipalities are following Sichuan’s lead, including Beijing and Hebei, Liaoning, Zhejiang and Guizhou.

East China’s Jiangsu Province has conducted similar experiments in 52 communes in its nine counties. Now one county and 34 communes have established township Party committees, township governments and economic committees for the communes.

The province will soon conduct large-scale experiments in 68 other counties and cities.

Township governments have been formed in 30 people’s communes on the outskirts of Beijing, where the reform of system has been completed. In addition, economic organizations — agricultural-industrial-commercial complexes of communes and production brigades — have been set up in 79 communes and towns. The Huangtugang Agricultural-Industrial-Commercial Complex, for example, has grown out of the Huangtugang People’s Commune consisting of 12 production brigades and one farm with a total of more than 40,000 commune members. It is subdivided into nine companies specializing in vegetables, animal husbandry, industry, construction, commerce, farm machinery transportation and flowers and plants.

The former production brigades have become branches which are, in turn, divided into several specialized managerial stations. Furthermore, preparations are being made to establish 13 township governments.

The success of experiments indicates that this system is conducive to strengthening political power, raising work efficiency and promoting the development of the rural economy.

1923 railway strike commemorated

The 60th anniversary of the Chinese railway workers’ February 7 strike was commemorated on February 6 at a rally attended by workers of the February 7 Locomotive Plant and the February 7 Rolling Stock Plant in Beijing.

In February 1923, workers of the Beijing-Hankou railway went on strike. This was a big political struggle under the leadership of the Communist Party of China against the political oppression by imperialists and feudal warlords. Although the strike was bloodily suppressed by the strong enemy, it is a glorious episode in the history of the Chinese workers’ movement.

Ni Zhifu, President of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, stated at the rally that in the past the Chinese working class stood in the forefront of democratic revolution and today they stand in the vanguard of socialist construction. At present, it is of particular importance for them to successfully build unity with intellectuals.

Liu Zaixiang, who had taken part in the strike, also addressed the gathering. Ten of the 48 retired workers who participated in the strike also were present.

In an editorial commemorating this event, Renmin Ribao, organ of the CPC Central Committee, said that the Chinese working class has developed from 3 million in 1923 to over 100 million at present. Of these, young workers account for about 60 per cent. Whether China can achieve its goal of quadrupling its gross annual output value of industry and agriculture by the end of this century depends, to a great extent, on the young workers. Ideological and political work should be conducted among them so as to raise their consciousness and enable them to realize the mission of the working class in this new historical period.

Similar activities to commemorate this occasion were also held in Zhengzhou of Henan Province, Wuhan of Hubei Prov-
CHINA

Indirect economy is encouraged

While keeping the dominant position of the socialist public economy, China encourages the development of individually run industry and commerce. This is a popular policy because it stimulates the market and facilitates daily life.

Large numbers of individual industrial and commercial shops existed in China's urban areas at the time of the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, and their number increased in the early 1950s. Individual small retailers and individually run service trades could be seen everywhere in the cities and the countryside. These provided many needed goods and services.

Later, after the socialist transformation of private industry and commerce was completed in 1956, "Left" ideas gradually gained influence. Individual economy was considered capitalist or soil on which capitalism was engendered. Most individual industry and commerce was banned or merged. The remaining establishments were generally discarded as a "tail of capitalism" during the "cultural revolution" from 1966-76.

The results were serious: State and collective industry and commerce monopolized everything and there was only one channel for commodity circulation, which was slowed as a result. Coupled with absolute egalitarianism in distribution, services deteriorated. All this has brought many inconveniences to the people.

After the downfall of the "gang of four" in October 1976, Lin was a forerunner of the Chinese workers' movement who died a heroic death in the February 7 strike.

the people's government repeatedly pointed out that individual economy meant the private ownership of the means of production combined with individual labour, and labourers who support themselves.

It was entirely different from the private enterprises in capitalist countries, in which the private ownership of the means of production is combined with hired labour and the capitalists make a profit through exploiting the labourers. Under socialism, individual industry and commerce are considered a supplement to the powerful socialist industry and commerce.

Encouraged by the new policy of vitalizing the economy, individual economy has been quickly restored and developed. In this respect, Liaoning Province in northeast China is exemplary. By the end of 1982, the number of individual businessmen in the province had reached 143,000 in about a hundred trades. They sold about 2,000 different goods and their retail sales amounted to 480 million yuan, 3.5 per cent of the total retail sales for the province last year.

By the end of last October, more than 20,000 individual industrial and commercial undertakings had appeared in south China's Guangzhou, engaging 25,500 people. Many famous local foods, which had disappeared for a long time, can now be bought everywhere. For instance, 168 shops sell Guangzhou roast geese in one urban district alone. Taiye chicken, a speciality, was a thing of the past until the descendants of its founder again put it on to the market.

A self-employed tailor (right) in northeast China's Shenyang.
Households that conduct individual industry and commerce must pay industrial and commercial tax and income tax. In the first year, however, they are exempt from such taxes. Penalties and legal action will be brought against those who overstep business boundaries or violate state policies and law such as raising prices arbitrarily.

**Zhao discusses Sino-US relations**

During his meeting with US Secretary of State George Shultz on Feb. 4, Premier Zhao Ziyang stressed that the key to developing Sino-US relations is the establishment of mutual trust, which is the foundation for a sound growth of bilateral relations. He said that both China and the United States should enhance their sense of trust and only thus can an enduring and stable relationship be established.

Zhao said that the Chinese Government attaches importance to developing Sino-US relations in the interests of the people of the two countries. The chief obstacle to the development of relations between the two countries is the Taiwan question. To enable Sino-US relations to develop, he said, the two sides must earnestly observe the Sino-US Joint Communique of August 17, 1982. "We hold that a lot of solid work remains to be done towards a true implementation of the communique," he said.

Zhao said that the talks between the US Secretary of State and the Chinese Foreign Minister was useful and the atmosphere in the talks was good and it helped promote mutual understanding.

When he met with Shultz, Deng Xiaoping reviewed the process of the development of Sino-US relations. They frankly exchanged views on the major questions that exist in Sino-US relations. Deng said he hoped that Sino-US relations would be improved through Shultz's visit.

During the US Secretary of State's visit to China from February 2 to 6, he had three rounds of serious and frank talks, altogether eight hours, with Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian on Sino-US relations and international issues of mutual concern.

On the bilateral relations, they discussed the questions of Taiwan, technical transfers, economic relations and trade, including the question of Chinese textile exports to the United States and the question of cultural and personnel exchanges.

Shultz said that the US Government and President Reagan were very interested in expanding US-China relations and that they fully intend to live up to the provisions of the August 17, 1982, Joint Communique.

Chinese officials said that the United States had not strictly observed the provisions of the communique. They drew attention to the fact that US officials made distortions in interpreting the communique, that senior US officials attended the "national day" reception given by a Taiwan organization in the United States, that the US Government allowed Taiwan's "co-operation council for North American affairs" to open a new office in Boston, and that the ceiling set by the US for its arms sales to Taiwan far exceeded the maximum annual figures published by US government departments.

Shultz said that US arms sales to Taiwan accords with the US "Taiwan relations act."

The Chinese retorted that this "act" is a serious stumbling block in the way of Sino-US
relations and, therefore, should be annulled.

Chinese officials further pointed out that the discriminatory and restrictive policies followed by the United States in economic, trade, cultural and technical exchanges with China are also detrimental to Sino-US relations. They told Shultz that an overriding issue now is the establishment of mutual trust and that actual deeds rather than empty words and promises are essential if relations are to be developed and mutual trust and confidence established.

Zhao Meets US Journalists

Before his meeting with Shultz, Premier Zhao met US journalists and answered their questions. Zhao said that China attaches importance to Sino-US relations, and has done what it could to develop these relations. He said: "We hope an enduring, stable and friendly relationship can be established between the two countries in the future. This is in the interest not only of the people of the two countries, but also of peace and stability in the world."

Premier Zhao said that he has accepted President Reagan's invitation to visit the United States, but the time of his visit has not been fixed yet.

He stressed: "I would not like to see my visit to the United States or President Reagan's visit to China made impossible by the failure to remove the obstacles to the further growth of bilateral relations."

When asked what is the greatest obstacle to Sino-US relations, Zhao Ziyang said that the main obstacle is the Taiwan question. "China has always maintained that relations between China and the United States must be developed in the spirit of equality and mutual benefit and on the basis of mutual respect for each other's independence and sovereignty and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. Only in this way can Sino-US relations be developed healthily," he said.

When asked whether Shultz's meeting with Chinese Defence Minister Zhang Aiping implied that China was ready to strengthen some kind of military relationship with the US, Zhao pointed out that no military ties exist between China and the United States.

Replying to a question on to what extent China was watching US-Soviet talks on arms control, Zhao said: "We stand for arms reduction, and we are not against negotiations. But, judging from historical experience, we don't place too high expectations on the outcome of the US-Soviet arms reduction negotiations. Experience shows that it is no easy job for the United States and the Soviet Union to gain substantive results in their arms reduction negotiations, including the reduction of nuclear weapons. Nevertheless, we still hope that their talks will be beneficial to world peace and security and will not harm the interests of a third country."

Answering questions on Sino-Soviet consultations, Zhao said: "I don't want to predict prematurely the outcome of the second round of consultations between the Chinese and Soviet Vice-Foreign Ministers. We hope the Soviet leaders will make new efforts to remove the obstacles to Sino-Soviet relations so that there will be a new breakthrough in the forthcoming consultations."

When asked about Sino-US trade, Zhao said: "China had a trade deficit of US$10 billion in the past decade. China's textile exports to the US constitute a very small part of the total US textile imports. The unilateral restrictions imposed by the US Government on the textile imports from China are detrimental to the growth of Sino-US trade. I hope that the US Government will follow the principle of equality and mutual benefit and the method of consultation on an equal footing with regard to Sino-US trade."

China, India hold third-round talks

The third round of talks between Chinese and Indian officials was held in Beijing from January 28 to February 2. The talks proceeded according to plan.

Both sides were positive in their attitude in the negotiations on the boundary question, and the atmosphere was friendly. Discussions on trade, economic co-operation and cultural exchanges were fruitful and made positive progress. The two sides were satisfied with the results.

Both sides agreed that the next round of talks will be held in New Delhi.

These talks between officials of the two countries were decided on by the Chinese and Indian Foreign Ministers in New Delhi in June 1981. In December that year, the first round of the talks was held in Beijing. In May last year, the second round was held in New Delhi.
Korea

Military exercises

The US and south Korean puppet troops began joint military exercises code-named “Team Spirit 83” throughout south Korea on February 1. The largest in scale so far, the exercises will last until mid-April.

To guard against any untoward incident, the Supreme Command of the Korean People's Army has declared a state of semi-war alert for the whole army, the People's Security Forces, the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and the Young Red Guards. The fighters of the Korean People's Army, workers and peasants said that they are ready to fight to protect the sacred territory of their fatherland. On February 3 the Korean Foreign Ministry issued a statement, condemning these military exercises and appealing to the international community to support the just struggle of the Korean people.

The present tension on the Korean Peninsula has resulted entirely from the arms expansion and war preparations of the Chun Du Hwan clique with US military backing and their refusal to take part in negotiations for the peaceful reunification of Korea. The United States has refused to withdraw its forces from south Korea and, in the name of joint military exercises, has transported huge land, sea and air forces and a large quantity of modern weapons from the US mainland and the Pacific region to south Korea. This action not only jeopardizes the prospects for the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea and deepens the north-south split, but also seriously endangers the stability of the Korean Peninsula.

The Chinese people resolutely oppose these provocative acts of the United States and support the self-defence measures adopted by the people of northern Korea. A spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry issued a statement on February 7, pointing out that the United States and south Korea should stop forthwith their massive joint military exercises and prevent any possible provocations. The statement said that the Chinese Government and people have always insisted that to promote the north-south dialogue and the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea, the United States must withdraw its troops from south Korea and stop interfering in the internal affairs of Korea.

— Ren Yan

Sihanouk entitled to attend summit

At a press conference in Beijing on Feb. 5, Democratic Kampuchean President Samdech Norodom Sihanouk reiterated: “As a co-founder of the non-aligned movement, I am fully entitled to attend the summit conference of the non-aligned countries to be held in New Delhi soon.”

He said that many countries support the Kampuchean delegation’s right to participate in the summit conference. He criticized Viet Nam, the Soviet Union, Cuba and India for obstructing his participation.

Sihanouk said that he and the Kampuchean people are determined to firmly resist the Vietnamese aggressors, to build a free, independent, neutral, peaceful and united Kampuchea.

When asked about his meeting with Deng Xiaoping and Zhao Ziyang, he said that the Chinese leaders are very concerned that he be invited to attend the non-aligned summit. Most African nations also support Democratic Kampuchea’s participation in the conference.

When asked about his meeting with the US Secretary of State George Schultz, Sihanouk said: “Schultz made it clear that the United States appreciates my efforts to liberate Kampuchea and expressed the hope that I could one day go back to Phnom Penh and successfully complete my mission to bring about a free, neutral and peaceful Kampuchea.”

Sihanouk said that the Kampuchean people are determined to unite to resist the Vietnamese aggressors. He stressed that only by defeating the Vietnamese on the battlefield will they be convinced that they cannot annex Kampuchea. Only thus will they be compelled to accept a political settlement at the conference table.
Italy

Massive strikes rock the nation

SUCCESSIVE strikes have swept through Italy since the beginning of the year. Their duration and intensity have been seldom seen in recent years.

Since last summer, Italy's economic situation has grown worse. Production fell, unemployment increased and the rate of inflation rose to what would be an annual rate of more than 16 per cent. In the meantime, the corporations adopted various measures to further shift the burden of inflation on to the workers. They fired large numbers of workers, cut their employees' work time, delayed negotiating new labour contracts to replace those that were about to expire, froze wages, and threatened to eliminate the "floating wage" system under which wages automatically rose according to rises in the cost of living.

To counter these actions, the workers have repeatedly held strikes involving millions of workers. The one by 14 million strikers was the biggest in the past 13 years. Strikes in the first 11 months of last year caused a loss of more than 112 million work hours for the businesses, a more than 60 per cent rise compared to that in the previous year.

Even after the government crisis ended last December, the workers' struggle continued to develop. Not long after the new government took office, it implemented two tough economic measures greatly increasing taxes and making heavy cuts in welfare spending. These two measures, totalling US$13,000 million, were described in the Italian press as "two heavy clubs" beating down on the heads of the working people. Angered by the government's actions, the workers held strikes and demonstrations all over the country for more than half a month.

These actions have caused serious economic losses to the corporations and have sharpened contradictions and squabbling within the ruling party. People once again began to talk about the possibility of another government crisis and the holding of general elections ahead of schedule. Under these circumstances, the government had to come out and intervene in the dispute between labour and capital. It was only by getting the representatives of the two sides on Jan. 22 to agree to revising the "floating wage" system and concluding new labour contracts that the strikes have temporarily subsided.

— Xin Hua

Surinam

7 attempted coups in 3 years

REPORTED attempts to overthrow the Surinam Government in December and January make a total of seven abortive coups in this small Latin country since February 1980.

Political unrest in Surinam can be attributed to a number of factors, among which foreign influence plays a significant role.

Foreign Influence

Formerly a Dutch colony, Surinam won its independence in 1975. But the Netherlands remains the major foreign country providing Surinam with military and economic aid. Also, there are some 200,000 Surinamese residing in the Netherlands. Dutch influence is still strong in the South American country.

Recent years also have seen Cuban influence rising rapidly in this country.

The colonialists try to sow discord among the various nationalities making up the Surinam population of 450,000, mak-
ing peace and co-operation among them difficult. The disparity of economic status among the different national groups also contributes to their quarrels.

Complicating the situation still further is the fact that there are numerous political parties in the country, most of which are formed along distinctive nationality lines and are under the influence of alien forces. Their constant disputes and conflicts were the direct cause of the many coup d’états.

In February 1980, Prime Minister Henck Arron’s government was overthrown by a group of soldiers (mainly sergeants) who formed an 8-man National Military Council (NMC). The coup was prompted by the Arron administration’s inability to cope with the deteriorating economy, which caused popular resentment, and by its high-handed policy towards the army sergeants’ demand for the right to organize unions.

After the coup, Daisy Bouterse, former NMC member, became commander of the Surinam armed forces and controlled the government via the NMC. Since then Bouterse has been Surinam’s most powerful political figure, and subsequent governments have all been appointed by the military authorities headed by him.

Political Disputes

Bouterse did not show a preference for any particular political system until March 1981 when he declared that Surinam was undergoing a “socialist revolution on the Cuban model.” He also released and rehabilitated three army officers arrested earlier for their close connections with Cuba.

In December 1981, representatives of the armed forces, political parties, trade unions, peasant and student organizations formed a “revolutionary front” with Bouterse as its chairman. Present at a rally of the revolutionary front in the same month in Paramaribo, Surinam’s capital, were representatives from Cuban, Nicaraguan and other countries’ political parties and organizations.

Thus Bouterse’s political inclination became evident and this worried the United States and the Netherlands. At home, it also met resistance from political and military circles as well as trade unions. This started increasingly intense disputes among the various parties over which type of political system Surinam should adopt.

For instance, Dr. Henk Chin-A-Sen, who became the country’s president after the 1980 coup, disagreed with the political tenets of Bouterse. The doctor stood for protection of private property and opposed nationalization. In foreign policy, he emphasized a close relationship with the Netherlands. He also insisted that the military not be permitted to interfere in government business and that constitutional rule be restored in Surinam as early as possible.

Bouterse, however, refused to move the troops back to the barracks and insisted that a constitutional government could not be restored as long as the economy was in bad shape. The conflict ended with Dr. Chin-A-Sen’s resignation in February 1982.

In March last year, a group of officers attempted a coup to change Bouterse’s turn to the left, but failed. Then in October, workers went on strike calling for restoration of parliamentary democracy and a downgrading of Surinam’s relations with Cuba. December 7 saw acts of violence spreading in the capital. Two days later, Bouterse announced that the military authorities had foiled a coup attempt by the “affluent upper strata” and that 15 people were killed as they tried to flee.

This incident touched off strong reactions both at home and abroad. Those Surinamese who were disgusted by Bouterse’s acts made preparations for another try. The Dutch Government decided to stop sending supplies to Surinam and Washington began to re-examine its aid programme. This was the background of the abortive January 30, 1983 coup.

— Zhu Manting
Sweden

‘Third road’ — way out of crisis?

The slogan of the new Swedish government’s 1983 fiscal policy is “Save and work.”

In a marked departure from its traditional economic approach, the ruling Social Democratic Labour Party (SDLP) proposed both expansion and reduction in its January 10 budget and financial report.

The policy seeks expansion of production and investment with simultaneous reduction of consumption and public expenditures.

Economic Difficulty

The SDLP traditionally upheld the validity of Keynesian economics which advocates expansion. But, when the party came to power again last October, it realized that neither expansion nor reduction policies alone could extricate the country from its present economic predicament.

The SDLP government drew lessons from other countries’ policies of expansion and reduction and mapped out a so-called “third road.”

Sweden greatly depends on foreign trade. Half of its industrial products are exported. The world economic crisis has dealt a heavy blow to the country’s economy. Since the early 70s, it has lost one-fourth of its international markets.

At the end of last year, it had 4 per cent unemployment, the highest since World War II. Its rate of inflation throughout last year was more than 10 per cent. Its balance of payments deficit was 22.6 billion kronor, and its state budget deficit reached 91.8 billion kronor, accounting for about 14 per cent of the gross national product.

Seeing that there is no likelihood of a clear-cut improvement in the world economic situation this year, the Swedish Government had decided on taking the “third road.”

Contradictory Measures

The major goal of the “third road” is to raise industrial production, reduce deficit spending, maintain employment and reduce the rate of inflation.

Immediately after its election, the SDLP instituted a series of emergency measures. It devalued the currency, expanded investments in industrial and public facilities, increased expenditures for scientific research and education, strengthened professional education and vocational training for the labour force, raised taxes on commodities, reduced state subsidies for private enterprises, limited private consumption and lowered government wage increases.

Some of these measures are mutually contradictory and could impede each other. The government hopes to avoid this problem through its stress on the adjustment between expansion and reduction, and has called on people from all social strata to make necessary sacrifices — to cut down actual income and lower living standards.

Judging from Sweden’s 1983 draft budget, the economic situation cannot be expected to take a marked turn for the better this year, despite governmental measures against crisis.

In 1983, the GNP is expected to rise by 1.4 per cent, the budget deficit will be 20.5 to 22 billion kronor. The inflation rate will be 11.5 per cent, unemployment 3.25 per cent and actual income lowered by 4 per cent.

Sweden has been a “welfare state” for many years. In order to maintain its huge welfare programmes, Sweden has borrowed a large amount of money over a long period. Government expenditures for production investment are lower than those for consumption, thus seriously affecting economic development. The implementation of the “third road” reflects the Swedish Government’s acknowledgement of a need to move away from the Keynesian policy.

— Liu Xumin
Chinese-Type Modernization (5)

**Updating Science and Technology**

by Hu Ji

Our objective of modernizing science and technology is gradually to shift all sectors of the national economy to an advanced technological basis. It undoubtedly will be difficult to achieve this in a country like ours, where the economy and technology are undeveloped, and for a long time insufficient attention was paid to science and technology or to intellectuals. This article will discuss how the goal will be achieved.

China's scientific and technological undertakings have grown apace since the founding of the People's Republic of China. The country now has 5.7 million scientific and technical personnel, of whom 330,000 are scientific researchers.

The Chinese Academy of Sciences, the country's research centre of natural sciences, has more than 110 research institutes, and the various ministries, provinces and regions operate another 4,300 research institutes. These, plus the various key enterprises' research agencies for applied science and technology, have created an independent scientific and technological research system with fairly complete branches of learning.

Our successes reflect the high level China has reached in some important scientific and technological areas, such as in testing atom and hydrogen bombs and guided missiles, in launching and recovering satellites, in launching carrier rockets from land and underwater to predetermined sea areas, and in the syntheses of bovine insulin and yeast alanine T-RNA. In general, however, our science and technology are still very limited.

The key to modernizing China's science and technology is not determined by whether the Chinese people have intelligence and wisdom — they do — but by whether government policies will bring the people's intelligence and wisdom into play.

Fortunately, we have introduced many effective policies in recent years after the influence of "Left" mistakes was eliminated.

In the light of China's actual conditions as well as the trends of scientific and technological development abroad, we have formulated new principles for scientific and technical development.

These principles stress that economic and social development relies on the progress of science and technology. Scientific and technical work must serve economic construction and that we must create a new respect for science, technology and intellectuals throughout the whole society.

The specific policies and measures include:

1. **Drawing up a long-term plan for a balanced development of the economy and society on one hand, and of science and technology on the other.** This plan will overcome the separation between the two and will provide scientific grounds for the goals of China's economic development, the reform of economic structure, the deployment of productive forces, the changes of the consumption structure, the rational utilization of resources, the technical transformation of enterprises, the selection of technological policies and the arrangements of employment.

Economic and social development will present various topics to scientific and technical work and, at the same time, render great support to research. The principal task of scientific and technical workers should be to study and solve the key problems in national economic development. In the course of formulating and
carrying out the plan, the economic and social development will be closely integrated with the progress of science and technology.

2. Organizing forces to tackle key problems in scientific and technical research. One weakness is our shortage of scientific and technical personnel and equipment for scientific research. The socialist planned economy, however, makes it possible for us to organize forces from all relevant fields to work in effective co-operation.

In the 1950s and 1960s, we broke the boundaries of different trades, regions and branches of learning to work jointly in successfully tackling some problems in advanced technology and in the manufacture of key equipment. This experience is a model for further development.

We will emphasize such areas as agriculture, consumer goods production, energy resources, transport and communications, new materials, large-scale integrated circuits and computer technology. In these areas projects that achieve good economic results and have an impact on scientific and technical development will be tackled as key problems.

We will adopt technical measures to increase output, centring on the breeding and cultivation of improved strains in agriculture, forestry and animal husbandry. Comprehensive development will be undertaken in some big agricultural areas.

In the production of consumer goods, we will introduce new technology and equipment in spinning and weaving, printing, dyeing and finishing.

In developing energy resources, we will emphasize technical transformation centring on energy conservation, the comprehensive utilization of coal, geophysical oil prospecting, high-speed oil drilling and the exploration of new energy resources. We will strengthen research into improved methods of processing oil and chemical raw materials and into different kinds of new materials.

We also will conduct studies into atomic energy, computers, laser technology, remote sensing and superconductive technology as well as the research in the basic sciences.

Furthermore, we will conduct feasibility studies for key construction projects and will invite appraisals and consultations from experts in all relevant fields to allow us to choose the best among different plans.

3. Emphasizing applied techniques and development studies. The study of applied techniques and development is comparatively weaker than that of basic sciences. One reason is that some scientific research institutes and personnel emphasize theoretical study while neglecting to work on the large amount of practical scientific and technical problems that arise in production. This has resulted in chronic poor economic results in quite a number of enterprises.

In view of this, at the present stage, we should emphasize the study of applied techniques and development and of the basic sciences that are closely linked to production. We should also concentrate our limited personnel, material and financial resources in these fields so as to raise the country's technical level in production and stimulate the national economy.

4. Selecting rational technological structure. China has a large population and limited funds, and its productive forces are very unevenly developed. Thus, we must introduce, on a wide scale, advanced techniques that can save funds, energy and raw materials and need a large number of labour force but yield high economic results.

We only can introduce a small number of new techniques that call for concentrated funds.
**Scientific and Technological Personnel in State Organs and Enterprises**

**Year:** 1981  
**Unit:** 1,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Departments</th>
<th>Personnel Total</th>
<th>Engineering and Technical</th>
<th>Agro-technical</th>
<th>Health Research</th>
<th>Scientic Research</th>
<th>Teaching</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nation's Total</td>
<td>5,714</td>
<td>2,077</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>1,680</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>1,291</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Industry and Construction</td>
<td>1,596</td>
<td>1,229</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Prospecting and Designing</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Agriculture, Forestry, Water Resources and Meteorology</td>
<td>462</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Transport, Post and Telecommunications</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Commerce, Foods, Services, and Materials Supply and Marketing</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Urban Public Utilities</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>7. Scientific Research</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>8. Culture, Education, Health and Social Welfare</td>
<td>2,534</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1,286</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1,185</td>
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<td>9. Banking and Insurance</td>
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<td>10. Government Departments and Organizations</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Composition of Scientific and Technological Personnel in State Organs and Enterprises**

**Year:** 1981  
**Unit:** 1,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Personnel Total</th>
<th>Engineering and Technical</th>
<th>Agro-technical</th>
<th>Health</th>
<th>Scientic Research</th>
<th>Teaching</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nation's Total</td>
<td>5,714</td>
<td>2,077</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>1,680</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>1,291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of which</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Female</td>
<td>1,815</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>965</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>per cent</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>57.4</td>
<td>27.8</td>
<td>28.2</td>
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<td>2. National Minorities</td>
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<td>54</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>per cent</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>3.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Attended Colleges or Universities</td>
<td>2,495</td>
<td>1,037</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>432</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>per cent</td>
<td>43.7</td>
<td>49.9</td>
<td>35.1</td>
<td>25.7</td>
<td>74.3</td>
<td>51.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
and energy resources. Instead, we can develop on a wide scale new techniques that call for more labour or advanced knowledge.

In agriculture we will mechanize some aspects of production, and will adopt technical guidelines that stress biochemical measures, intensive cultivation and increasing per-unit output. In recent years, China has had excellent yields of crops of improved strains. The successful mass planting of improved strains such as the long-grained hybrid rice, the Lumian No. 1 cotton and the maize inbreader No. 303, for instance, increased the peasants' annual income by 800 million yuan, 500 million yuan and 500 million yuan respectively.

In the different industrial departments, the degree of modernization of technical equipment varies greatly. In the heavy industrial enterprises, the fixed assets per worker averages 11,000 yuan; in the light industrial enterprises, 4,500 yuan; in the handicraft enterprises, 1,250 yuan; and in the rural commune- and brigade-run enterprises, 1,000 yuan.

This imbalance cannot possibly be changed in a short period of time. Therefore, China's industry will remain technologically diversified, including the application of advanced automatic and electronic techniques, the utilization of mechanized or semi-automatic technical equipment and semi-mechanized and traditional manual operations. During the process of modernization, we must act within our own capabilities and progress gradually.

5. Publicizing the results of scientific and technical results. Many large enterprises in China have set up their own scientific research institutes in recent years, and some medium-sized and small enterprises have begun to work jointly to strengthen their scientific research work. All have achieved remarkable results in tackling technical problems in production.

In Changzhou, a medium-sized city in Jiangsu Province, more than 90 enterprises have established their own research institutes or groups. They also have co-ordinated efforts with more than 130 institutes of higher learning and scientific research institutes in other places. Over the last five years, the city's total industrial output value increased at an average rate of 13 per cent a year. In rapidly developing cities such as Jiangsu Province's Wuxi, Hubei Province's Xiangfan and Liaoning Province's Siping and Dandong, half of the increased industrial output value of the last three years can be attributed to technological improvements.

Our government also has adopted a series of policies and measures to encourage technological upgrading of existing enterprises and mines. They include: incorporating into the state plan the demands to popularize new techniques, eliminate obsolete products and prohibit the use of inefficient techniques; allocating more funds to technological exploration; establishing enterprise funds for the trial production of new products; encouraging compensatory transfer of scientific and technical results; and introducing a pricing policy that fixes high prices for quality products and imposes penalties on poor-quality and outdated products.

6. Attaching importance to importing, digesting and absorbing techniques. Since China adopted the policy of opening to the outside world in 1978, the emphasis of our technical import has shifted from importing large complete sets of equipment to importing single techniques. Similarly, we have shifted from a stress on serving newly built enterprises to the technical transformation of existing enterprises.

Within the total volume of imported techniques and equipment in the state plan, the im-
port of single techniques rose from 1.2 per cent in 1979 to 28.6 per cent in 1981. Within the total funds for technical import, the percentage of imported techniques and key equipment used for the technical transformation of existing enterprises rose from 0.7 in 1979 to 36.7 in 1981.

These imported techniques include designing, technological processes, manufacturing and management, some sample machinery, testing meters and instruments, key equipment and production lines. They are small in scale, cost comparatively little and yield quick results.

We must also organize scientific and technical personnel to study, digest and absorb the imported techniques so as to enhance our ability to develop science and technology through our own efforts.

In recent years, by absorbing and improving imported techniques and equipment, our machine-building industry has produced a series of new products which have improved the functions and quality of the complete sets of equipment needed by metallurgical, power, ship-building, textile and light industries.

The technical transformation we are now conducting in key enterprises will spread to all other enterprises. By the end of this century, we must strive to popularize throughout our country the techniques widely used by the developed countries in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

**Carry on Reform of Written Chinese**

In the 50s, the Party Central Committee and State Council took on the tasks of popularizing *putonghua* (common speech), implementing the Scheme for the Chinese Phonetic Alphabet (*pinyin*) as well as systematizing and simplifying Chinese characters.

The Communist Party and the People's Government were not the first in China to undertake these endeavours, which started long, long ago. Nonetheless, they have been continuing the tasks on a larger scale with the aid of administrative measures.

The call for popularizing *putonghua* (originally known as mandarin), for example, was raised shortly after the Revolution of 1911. At that time, standard pronunciations of Chinese characters were invented on a pure theoretical basis; then, after a few years of practice, the Beijing dialect was chosen as the standard Chinese speech.

The Scheme for the Chinese Phonetic Alphabet was developed from an old system using Roman letters to annotate mandarin.

"*Putonghua*"

Popularizing *putonghua* is one of China's major language policies. This is clearly stated in the Constitution: "The state promotes the nationwide use of *putonghua* (common speech based on Beijing pronunciation)."

The common speech is designed to facilitate communications between the people of different areas and in this way help promote unity of the nation and the people and the progress of society.

Before the "cultural revolution," educational departments across the land successfully popularized *putonghua*. During the "cultural revolution" of 1966-76, however, this work was totally neglected. A March 1982 national conference on popularizing *putonghua* in schools reiterated the principle of popularizing common speech step by step.

**Chinese Phonetic Alphabet**

The Scheme for the Chinese Phonetic Alphabet was drafted by the state on the basis of repeated discussions among the populace. After quite a few years of practice, it has won recognition in other countries. The urgent task now is to develop regular morphological rules and widen the use of the scheme.

The work to formulate the Scheme for the Chinese Phonetic Alphabet was proposed by Chairman Mao shortly after the establishment of New China. After long years of deliberation and nationwide discussions, a number of drafts were presented. One of them was in the form
of Chinese characters and Chairman Mao was an ardent supporter of it in the very begin-
ning.

However, most members of the Committee for the Reform of the Written Chinese Language were inclined to adopt Latin letters for the Chinese phonetic alphabet and they had the support of many people from various walks of life. It was only then that Chairman Mao and Premier Zhou decided to use Latin letters which were more acceptable to the world community.

The scheme (pinyin) now in use was discussed and adopted by State Council plenary sessions and approved by the National People's Congress in 1958. New dictionaries use it to mark the pronunciations of Chinese characters; and local dialect speakers, minority peoples and foreigners have found it a handy aid in learning to speak putonghua.

Pinyin is also used by minority nationalities in creating or reforming their own written languages. Today it appears everywhere, stencilled on to industrial products, trade marks and signboards of shops and railway stations, although work in this respect needs to be improved.

An attempt was made some time ago to introduce alphabetic Chinese writing for telegraph communications, but unfortunately it was given up midway. Thus a golden opportunity was lost for popularizing the Scheme for the Chinese Phonetic Alphabet. The Chinese telegraph still uses coded Chinese characters, which make the service time-consuming, costly and inefficient.

In 1977, the Third UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographic Names adopted a resolution that the Scheme for the Chinese Phonetic Alphabet should be used when spelling Chinese names of people and places in Latin letters.

In August 1981, the Technical Committee of Documentation of the World Standardization Organization, after a ballot by correspondence among member states, adopted with one dissenting vote (from the United States) the scheme as the international standard for spelling Chinese names of people and places.

This means that all names of people, places and phrases that originate in Chinese should be spelt in pinyin.

The scheme is being carried out smoothly, although many problems remain. For example, since it was enacted by the State Council and the National People's Congress, both Chinese and foreign scholars have presented many alternative schemes.

By the end of 1980, more than 1,600 such schemes had been submitted to the Committee for the Reform of the Written Chinese Language. Most of them stood for the use of alphabetic writing in Roman letters. Others were from people who want to replace the scheme with systems that employ Chinese characters.

With a lot of publicity work and some experiments, some of these systems won support of well-known personages and even hit the press, thus exerting a certain impact on society.

Should, then, the Committee for the Reform of the Written Chinese Language support and help popularize these schemes? Or should the official Scheme for the Chinese Phonetic Alphabet (pinyin) be further implemented?

Hu Qiaomu, who is a Member of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee, spoke on this issue at a January 1982 meeting of the chairman and vice-chairmen of the Committee for the Reform of the Written Chinese Language.

As a state administrative department, Hu said, the committee could not support—in publicity work, finances, labour power, or any other form—any scheme that contravenes the legal one. How could the committee afford to

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School children writing from memory the Chinese phonetic alphabets on the blackboard.
support the more than 1,000 schemes that had been presented? he asked. He reiterated that the committee's task was to implement the legal scheme that had been approved through solemn government procedures. Individuals may study and discuss the reform of the written Chinese language on an academic basis; this will be conducive to the reform.

But, because the Scheme for the Chinese Phonetic Alphabet has an important bearing on education, publishing and many other aspects of the daily life of the nation, it must be standardized. It is an administrative issue rather than a purely academic one. Therefore we should not randomly publicize any opinion that negates or casts doubt on the legal scheme. Since there are not yet explicit stipulations on the principle and scheme for alphabetic Chinese writing so discussion among different schools of thought on this issue is permissible.

**Simplified Chinese Characters**

Since its establishment in 1949, the People’s Republic has correctly and successfully systematized and simplified some of the Chinese characters. To facilitate information encoding of written Chinese language, full scope should be given to this field of work; and problems existing in the Scheme for Simplified Chinese Characters and in the draft of the Second Scheme for Simplified Chinese Characters should be solved in real earnest.

Simplification of Chinese characters, which all along have been a mixture of complex and simplified ones, is in the interest of the Chinese people in their hundreds of millions. It is an inevitable trend.

Rather than allowing simplification of Chinese characters to be done at random, we should proceed with it in an orderly way and put it under strong leadership, because people tend to simplify the characters out of their own needs, taking whatever handy forms hit them without caring about whether they are scientific or not.

For that reason, it is necessary for experts to give overall consideration to simplified characters used among the people.

The characters need to be simplified without delay to facilitate teaching Chinese in the schools. A large number of characters with many strokes are too complicated for primary school pupils to learn.

The same problem also exists in the work to eliminate illiteracy among adults. Those whose work requires that they study and use complex characters also need to master the simplified ones because their existence is already a solid reality. All in all, standardized simplified Chinese characters are a boon to all.

We have made some headway in the reform of the written Chinese language, but we still have shortcomings in this field of work. First of all, we need to further improve the related principles and methods. In the past, we emphasized reducing the number of strokes in each character and the number of characters in daily use; and our principle was to accept simplified characters already established by common use. But this is far from sufficient, considering the enormity of the task of encoding the Chinese written language for telegraph and computer programming. New important guidelines must be found so that we can sort out and simplify Chinese characters in an overall way.

It is unlikely that Chinese characters with a time-honoured history will be totally abolished. But we also are certain that Chinese alphabetic writing will eventually come to stay. It may well be that because each has its strengths, alphabetic Chinese writing and traditional writing will coexist for a long time. To bring about that situation requires herculean efforts in popularizing pinyin.

On the other hand, since Chinese characters will remain in use for many years to come, comprehensive consideration should be given to systematizing and simplifying them so as to facilitate both teaching in schools and information encoding.

—(Excerpts from an article originally printed in “Wenzi Gaige” [Reform of Written Chinese Language])
Controlling Population Growth

Can China keep its population, one-fourth of the world's total, within 1,200 million by the end of this century? It depends on its success in persuading its populous peasantry to accept the "one couple, one child" policy.

Shandong Province and four others and the three municipalities (Beijing, Shanghai and Tianjin) directly under the central authorities have achieved their population targets. Their experience shows that the task, though difficult, is not impossible.

China's Population Policy

by Qian Xinzhuong, Chairman of the State Family Planning Commission

China's population problem has become serious enough to arouse worldwide attention. Its solution is a strategic aspect of the country's modernization programme.

Our current focus is on quadrupling the gross annual value of industrial and agricultural production by the end of this century so that both urban and rural income will increase several times over and the people will be comparatively well-off both materially and culturally.

One of the prerequisites for realizing this goal is to keep the population within 1,200 million. But this is dependent upon whether we can effectively carry out the policy of controlling the population growth and improving the physique of the population.

Target of Population Control

China today has a population of 1,000 million, 80 per cent of whom are peasants. Half of the population is under the age of 21. In the next 18 years, an average of 20 million young people will reach the marriageable age each year. That means that about 13 million babies will be born annually.

In 1981, the natural growth rate of China's population was 14.55 per thousand. At this rate of growth, the total population would top the mark of 1,300 million by the end of this century.

The added expenditures to support 100 million extra people are staggering. If 2,200 yuan are needed to support a child until he reaches 16, the total to support 100 million will be 220,000 million yuan, nearly half of the total value of China's present fixed assets.

Therefore, even if the gross annual value of industrial and agricultural production were quadrupled by the year 2000 it would still be hard for people to be well-off.

From 1964 to 1982, China's population increased by 310 million. It can only increase by just over 190 million in the next 18 years, with an average annual growth rate of less than 9.5 per thousand. This is extremely important, but difficult to achieve.

Population Must Be Controlled

The production of consumer goods and capital goods should be directly proportional to the production of the humankind itself under any kind of social system.

This is even more true in China, which has a socialist planned economy. Our experience has proved what grave results can occur if control is lost over population growth.

China's national economy has developed tremendously in the 33 years since the founding of the People's Republic. The absolute growth for both the output and output value of industrial and agricultural production has been fairly big.

But, as the population has also increased rapidly, most of the newly added means of subsistence has been consumed by the newly added population and the people's livelihood has not been improved as it should have.

The total output of grain increased from 163.9 million...
Profile of Qian Xinzong

QIAN XINZONG is Chairman of the State Family Planning Commission and adviser to the Ministry of Public Health. He is also the Honorary President of the Chinese Medical Association and President of the China Red Cross Society.

Born in Shanghai in 1911, he studied medicine in Tongji University in Shanghai. In the 30s and 40s, he worked as a doctor and taught medicine. In the early 50s, he was a postgraduate in the Moscow No. 1 Academy of Medical Sciences.

Later, he was appointed president of the Academy of Military Medical Sciences and in 1958, he became Vice-Minister and then Minister of Public Health.

He has been a national leader in public health and family planning for 24 years.

Since the 1960s, he has organized medical workers to conduct studies on contraceptive operations and develop contraceptive medicines and devices. He also has overseen their dissemination and popularization. Following his call to control Shanghai's population growth, more than 600,000 people in the city were voluntarily sterilized.

While giving leadership to the daily work of family planning, he also studies population problems. He spends one-fourth of each year conducting investigations in all parts of the country. He has played an important role in formulating and implementing the population policy of "controlling the size of the population and improving its physique." He has also mobilized mass media to publicize family planning and personally wrote numerous articles on the topic.

Under his leadership, many contraceptive medicines and devices have been developed in China and are available to the population free of charge. These also will help meet partially the needs of other developing countries. Today, China leads the world in some of its birth control measures.

Qian Xinzong often says: "As a doctor, I think about the way to keep the people in good health." He has actively implemented the principle of "prevention first" and promoted the establishment of grassroots public health service, which has achieved satisfactory results in preventing and curing diseases and in improving the health of the population.

China's population growth rate came down from 25.95 per thousand in 1970 to 12 per thousand in 1980 and the average life span of its people rose from 36 in 1949 to 68 in 1981. Qian Xinzong's contributions have helped achieve these advances.

Qian Xinzong is also active in international medical cooperation. He has attended many international conferences to exchange experiences with his counterparts in other countries.

tons in 1952 to 344.3 million tons in 1982. However, the per-capita average hovered around 300 kilogrammes. The population growth has also caused acute problems in clothing, housing, transport, education and medical care.

Since the 1970s, family planning has been widely carried out in China's cities and countryside. A total of 68 million fewer children were born in the 10 years between 1971 and 1981. This reduction has played a positive role in improving the livelihood of the people.

A persuasive example is Shifang County in Sichuan Province. In the 20 years between 1957 and 1976, the county's grain output increased 22.2 per cent, but its population went up 31.6 per cent. The average per-capita grain output for its agricultural population actually dropped from 434 kilogrammes to 400 kilogrammes.

After the county carried out family planning, its population increased only 1 per cent in the three years between 1977 and 1979. Its grain output increased 32.4 per cent in the same period, and the average per-capita grain output for its agricultural population rose to 527 kilogrammes.

One Couple, One Child

Early in 1982, the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and the State Council issued a directive calling on every urban couple to give birth to only one child. In the countryside, one child for one couple is also widely advocated.

In unusual cases, a couple may receive permission to give birth to a second child. Under no circumstances is the birth of a third child allowed. Family planning also is advocated among national minorities but the policy is relaxed to a certain extent.

*The most common unusual cases are: (1) the firstborn is a non-hereditary disabled and cannot become a normal member of the labour force; (2) in reorganized families, one spouse has a child by his or her first marriage and the other side is married for the first time; (3) those who had not borne children for years but became pregnant after adopting other people's children.
Today, 70 per cent of couples at child-bearing age in the five provinces of Liaoning, Jilin, Heilongjiang, Shandong and Jiangsu as well as Beijing, Shanghai and Tianjin have given birth to only one child each.

If another 11 provinces with populations above 30 million reach this level, we can keep our population within 1,200 million by the end of this century.

Several advanced models have appeared in family planning. One example is Wenjiang Prefecture in Sichuan Province. Its one-child rate (the rate of first-borns in the total births) between January and September 1982 was 94.2 per cent, and those who gave birth to three or more children accounted for only 0.25 per cent.

No one in Shifang County, which is in the prefecture, gave birth to a third child.

The one-child rate for Yantai Prefecture in Shandong Province during the same period was 93.1 per cent and the rate of third or more births was 0.4 per cent. Now cases of giving birth to three or more children have disappeared in Rongcheng County and 136 communes in the prefecture.

Now, more than 16 million of some 25 million couples of child-bearing age in China who only have one child, or 63 per cent, are holders of one-child certificates (issued to those who are willing to limit their family to only one child).

**Education and Methods**

In January, a one-month family planning publicity campaign was launched nationwide. Its purpose was to carry out ideological education among the people, especially the peasants, to help them discard the traditional ideas that more children bring more happiness and that boys are superior to girls.

Instead, they are taught that fewer, healthier births are important to the country’s economic and social development and to the happiness of future generations, so that they will conscientiously carry out the policy.

In addition to education, necessary economic penalties have been adopted and the authorities provide ample medical services including contraceptives, safe operations and good maternity and child care.

Voluntary sterilization for either women or men is advocated among couples of child-bearing ages who have given birth to two children. However, currently the rate of sterilization operation is lower in China than in the United States, Britain and other countries.

Local authorities throughout the countryside, while carrying out the production responsibility system, have given favourable treatment to couples who have only one child. Some communes and production brigades offer preferential treatment to families whose only child is a girl. All these efforts have been effective.

On the other hand, severe punishments are meted out for infanticide of baby girls and maltreatment of women who have given birth to girls.

The system of five guarantees (food, clothing, fuel, schooling and burial expenses) for childless and infirm old persons and orphans has been widely carried out in China’s countryside. Some places have set up homes for the aged and some communes and brigades have a pension plan for retired peasants.

These social insurance measures and welfare facilities, which will be expanded gradually with the economic development, are conducive to relieving the one-child parents of their fears.

We are going to draft a family-planning law in the next two years on the basis of investigation and summing up experience.
Family planning has been incorporated into China's new Constitution and is an important aspect of the national economic and social development plan. The government and the people's organizations have taken it on as a long-term task.

The "one couple, one child" policy was formulated in light of China's actual conditions. It expresses the desire of the people nationwide for a modern and prosperous socialist country.

Planning Parenthood, Shandong Style

by Our Correspondent Yang Xiaobing

If Confucius and Mencius were still with us, they might well be exhilarated, or at least amazed, to see that today, more than 2,000 years later, their many philosophical dogmas, though in the process of fading away, still affect quite a number of people in their native place, the east Chinese province of Shandong.

Mencius would be the happier, because his doctrine that a woman's failure to produce male offspring is the greatest filial impiety has earned him quite an impressive pious following.

Shandong is already crowded with 74.84 million inhabitants, averaging 493 per square kilometre, yet many people still fondly dream of having more children and grandchildren. They think that a roomful of kids would not only bring good luck but also show that a family was worthy of its ancestors. This, again, is attributable to Mencius.

These traditional concepts, however, are being gradually replaced by the new idea of "one couple, one child." If a substantial portion complies with this call, part of the ongoing efforts to publicize planned parenthood, it will eventually help slow the national population growth.

China's knottiest family planning work is in the countryside. But Shandong, with over 80 per cent of its population in the rural areas, has become one of the nation's most successful provinces in this field.

Achievements

In the last 12 years, the province has reduced the number of new births by 9 million compared with the birth rate of 1970, the year the work to popularize planned parenthood began. Of the 1.3 million babies born last year, 81 per cent were first births.

Despite a nationwide baby boom in the last few years, the province has kept its birth rate below 12 per thousand required by the state.

The Key

Shandong's success stems from the meticulous and systematic guidance provided by the provincial Party committee, according to Ding Fangming, the provincial deputy governor.

Organization. Like other provinces, Shandong has established a complete network of functioning agencies to lead the family planning work.

Leading groups composed of those in charge of family planning, health care, women's work and publicity work have been set up within the Party from the provincial committee to grass-roots branches, with main responsible members serving as group leaders.

On the government side, there are family planning bureaus at the provincial, prefectural and county levels, which are aided by planned parenthood offices in the communes as well as production brigade and team.
Population in Shandong

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Births (10,000)</th>
<th>Natural growth rate (%)</th>
<th>Year-end total population (10,000)</th>
<th>First births (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>26.60</td>
<td>6442</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>19.94</td>
<td>6683</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>14.03</td>
<td>6971</td>
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<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>9.72</td>
<td>7009</td>
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<td>1978</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>10.27</td>
<td>7160</td>
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<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>10.79</td>
<td>7232</td>
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<td>1980</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>8.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>10.07</td>
<td>7395</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982*</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7484</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The 1982 figure was estimated in the middle of the year.

leaders. This extensive network has ensured the implementation of state family planning policies and plans.

Principle. China's family planning work is guided by the principle of supplementing ideological education with administrative measures, contraception with abortion and day-to-day work with occasional full-scale publicity campaigns.

Much attention has been paid to disseminating theoretical knowledge. Mathematics is employed in the various localities to convince the masses of the relationship between population growth on the one hand and economic development and living standard on the other. For example, in the early 1950s, each person in Shandong had an average of 2.88 mu of farmland (one mu equals one-fifteenth of a hectare). However, overly rapid population growth has reduced the figure to 1.48 mu per capita.

The result is that in the last three decades, the peasants' livelihood has not improved as it should have despite burgeoning development in farm production.

When they are convinced that more children do not bring good fortune but instead more mouths to feed, the masses become more co-operative in family planning.

Birth control information is widely disseminated to help couples of child-bearing age to choose the appropriate method and use it effectively. Contraceptives are issued on a regular basis, and medical departments gave regular checkups on the implementation of contraception. Abortion, which causes pain and financial losses, is the last measure taken.

Family planning work is now high on the agenda of Party and government organizations at every level. They often sum up experiences in implementing related state principles and policies, hold mass meetings to commend those who have played an exemplary role in planned parenthood work, and give more publicity to this endeavour.

The press as well as local blackboard "newspapers" are also rallied in the publicity work. Public address stations, perhaps the most powerful opinion moulders in the villages, put family planning on top of their programming, broadcasting related articles during mealtime so that they will reach all ears.

Professional and amateur actors and actresses have also helped in this endeavour. They have performed a rich repertoire of dramas, plays, singing and dancing, ballads and other forms loved by local people to eulogize those who do a good job in the work to popularize planned parenthood and criticize those who have upset state population plans.

But the most practical and most effective method is for cadres to visit the peasant families and have heart-to-heart talks with them.

Double-Contracting System. The responsibility system in farm production which emerged in recent years is now followed by the adoption of a "double-contracting" system, whereby a peasant is required to sign two contracts with the production team, one for grain output and the other for family planning.

As an economic incentive for family planning, this system has been instituted in 70 per cent of the counties in Shandong. Other counties are following suit.

Family planning and production planning are both major
tasks for leading groups at various levels. Leaders of a locality or an organization which do a sloppy job in family planning will be criticized by the higher leadership; those involved will have their bonuses docked and will not be commended as advanced workers, even if they excel in their professional work. Those who do a good job in family planning will be awarded.

A commune member is awarded and accorded preferential treatment if he fulfils his contracted responsibility in both farm production and family planning. He who fails will be penalized according to the contracts. Those who refuse to comply with family planning are not entitled to sign contracts for farm production.

Before the double-contracting system, people pursued production single-mindedly and neglected population control. But the situation has changed. In Heze and Lingxian Counties, for example, the peasants have vastly augmented their earnings by developing production while keeping natural population growth rate below 10 per thousand.

Problems

"Population growth in this province has only just been brought under control," said deputy governor Ding. "We still have problems that we should not overlook. If we slacken our effort in the least, the growth rate will turn up again."

At the provincial level, several training classes have been held for cadres in charge of family planning work. But at the grass-roots level, some cadres still resort to administrative orders and economic measures.

"Lack of funds" is another complaint often heard among family planning workers.

"We are reluctant to ask for funds because we know the state has financial difficulties," they say. "But this does make things tough for us."

The low quality and shortage of contraceptives pose one more practical problem that needs to be solved without delay.

But we are fortunate in that our government has defined its population policy, said the deputy governor. Thus we can continue our effort to popularize family planning among the people and firmly rely on the help from all walks of life.

CORRECTIONS: Feb. 7, 1983 issue, p. 14, left col., last para., lines 9, 10 and 11 should read "foreign countries, It signed contracts to the total value of US$866 million for projects and labour service co-operation with foreign countries."

The word "caloricity" in the 12th line of the lefthand column from the bottom, in the sixth and eighth lines of the righthand column and in the title of the table on p. 28, issue No. 2 should read "energy efficiency."
New Look on Happiness
by Our Correspondent Yang Xiaobing

Happiness comes to a family with one child, according to family planning propaganda, but for peasants in Yantai Prefecture of Shandong Province, living examples are more persuasive than rhetoric.

"More Sons, Less Happiness"

A popular story explains how the people of Zhangjiafu village, Wendeng County, got rid of the traditional concept of "more sons, more happiness."

Zhang Jihuai and his wife, both about 50, have one son and one daughter. All four bring income into the household. The family lives comfortably and has several thousand yuan of bank savings.

Zhang Shujian, of the same generation as Zhang Jihuai, has six sons. When the children were small, he could hardly make ends meet because there were so many to be fed, clothed and looked after. Soon after the boys became old enough to make money, they reached marrying age, which cost a huge sum of money. Zhang spent more than 10,000 yuan to build new houses for his sons. He could not help envying Zhang Jihuai. "See how well Zhang Jihuai lives!" he said.

Zhang Jinan who has 10 children has a deeper understanding of this question. At a brigade meeting, his wife took the floor, complaining that her whole life was tied down by children and family chores. Finally she came to this conclusion, "More sons, less happiness."

For 13 successive years since the government issued the call to practise family planning, Zhangjiafu village has had no unplanned births.

"A Random Harvest"

Cadres in charge of family planning consider it part of their own work to help women who are infertile. When Liang Yue-xiu, a member of Rongcheng County's Fuliu commune, bore no children for eight years after she got married, she became greatly disheartened. Wang Ai-yu, a commune cadre in charge of family planning, accompanied Liang to the county hospital more than 30 kilometres away where she was diagnosed and treated for infertility.

Before long, Liang was pregnant and later she gave birth to a healthy baby boy. The couple were beside themselves with joy and were very grateful to Wang. They also pledged to have only one child.

Other commune members point to this as an example of the concern shown by family planning cadres for the masses. "We should feel guilty if we don't practise family planning consciously," one said.

Teng Xuechun, head of the family planning bureau of Rongcheng County, said, "Our task is to ensure that everyone lives a better life. We don't forbid people the right to bear children. Our work is to encourage them to have fewer but healthier ones."

The county's 1982 first-birth rate reached 97 per cent.

Merry Old Folks

Another sign of changing times is a "happiness courtyard" (home for the aged) at the Sunjiatuan commune in the suburbs of Weihai city.

The home accommodates 13 old persons with an average age of 76. Those with no sons receive a food ration and an in-
Answering Our Readers

Why the Jump in Urban Population Between 1981 and 1982?

The third national census taken on July 1, 1982 put China's urban (cities and towns) population at 206 million, according to the State Statistical Bureau (Beijing Review, No. 45, 1982). But the figure was only 138 million at the end of 1981 (and 144 million in 1980). The difference was 68 million. Why?

There are three major reasons:

1. Different methods of calculation. The 1981 calculation includes only those who are non-rural population (whose food grain is supplied by the state), but the 1982 calculation includes people whose homes are in the countryside but who have resided in cities or towns for more than one year. This is the principal reason causing the difference.

2. More cities and towns. In 1981, the country had 229 cities and towns. Seven new cities had been added when the 1982 census was taken.

3. Births and new residents. Some of the difference in the six months between calculations can be accounted for by natural growth (births) and people moving into cities and towns.

The home has furnished single and double rooms, a recreation room, a public bath and other living facilities. The staff looks after the residents' food, clothing, recreational activities and other needs and helps them wash up and comb their hair. The home's management fees are covered by the commune's welfare fund.

The week's menu, on the wall of the dining room, detailed the great variety of food offered, such as meat, eggs, vegetables, etc. Another notice announced the residents' birthdays. Each birthday is celebrated with longevity noodles and dumplings prepared by the staff according to the locality's tradition.

The home residents are extremely hospitable and enthusiastic about their interesting life. Ninety-year-old granny Qi evenburst into tears when somebody jokingly suggested that she move out of the home.

Xia Rixuan, 78, was a bodyguard for the noted anti-Japanese General Zhang Xuelang. He travelled around the country for dozens of years before settling down in his home village. He and his wife said that the staff of the "happiness courtyard" treat them as they would treat their own parents.

Homes as well run as this are still fairly rare in China's rural areas today. But they represent the future.

With the constant growth of the national economy and social welfare, the traditional concept of "bearing sons so one will have someone to rely on in old age" will be eliminated and family planning will be willingly accepted by an increasing number of people.
EXHIBITION

Stage art

China's first national stage art exhibition was recently held in Beijing. On show were 1,000 exhibits created since the founding of New China in 1949 including decor, costumes and models and illustrations of lighting and scenery designs for operas, dances, plays, acrobatic and other shows.

Models of 10 opera stages reflecting historical and regional variations were displayed, including a scaled-down reproduction of a stage from the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368) unearthed in Hongtong County in Shanxi Province, a model of the stage in the Dehe Garden at the Summer Palace and a replica of a riverside theatre near Shaoxing, Zhejiang Province. The ancient Shaoxing stage was built to accommodate audiences who viewed performances from their own sampans or boats. This type of theatre prospered in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) and was still popular in the youth of Lu Xun (1881-1936) as he records in his “Village Opera.” Today only a few remain.

Traditional operas were often staged with one table and two chairs. In New China sets have become more elaborate and scenarios for various operas were displayed. Further, the costumes and stage sets used by well-known Beijing opera performing artists, Mei Lanfang and Zhou Xinfang, were exhibited.

The set designed by the Beijing People's Art Theatre for Teahouse, a play by Lao She (1899-1966) was particularly eye-catching. An old-style teahouse was recreated on stage. In a big room with small lattice windows and a bamboo door curtain, a stove for making tea and warming wine is on the left; a counter, on the right and a few wooden tea tables and stools, stage centre. Several poles for hanging bird cages are suspended from the ceiling. To one side is a reserved area behind a railing. The authentic-looking teahouse was altered for the stage so that the larger tables were down stage, with the smaller
ones arranged upstage for easy audience visibility.

The exhibition included sets for operas staged, in a Brechtian style, which can be altered without a break in the action. Many of the dance sets, full of poetry, had a distinctive Chinese flavour. The scenery for the dance Return From Picking Mulberry Leaves depicts a setting sun reflected on a lake with mulberry trees in the distance. A girl in a boat is rowing back from picking mulberry leaves, some of which can be seen waving on the top end of her pole. The sets for Yungang Music Dance and Sword Dance both set in ancient China capture China’s long-standing traditions. The first one unites the movements of a dancing woman with a recreated Buddhist image from the Yungang Grottoes.

Also on display were some lighting, sound and special effect devices and props made by Chinese stage scenery designers.

Du Shixiang, a master stage artist and responsible person for this exhibit, said that the exhibition by no means introduced systematically or academically the development of China’s modern stage scenery design. However, after viewing it people had an impression of the efforts made by creative designers of stage scenery.

ART

New year pictures

Among China’s numerous customs for celebrating the Spring Festival (Chinese lunar New Year which falls on Feb. 13 this year) is decorating rooms with new pictures. In ancient China peasants expressed their wishes for peace, health and fortunes in these pictures.

As these prints were associated with the New Year, they became known as New Year pictures.

This custom is referred to in Chinese classics of 2,000 years ago. Then “door pictures” of two warriors were mounted beside the doors to frighten away evil spirits. Through the centuries a special art form for these pictures developed and the subjects of the artists multiplied. Historical stories, folk tales, landscapes, flowers and birds — all became part of motifs of prosperity, good health and peace. Plump babies and fish (a homonym for “sufficient” in Chinese) were also favourites.

New Year pictures have striking colours and beautiful composition. The background is often so detailed that dozens of things can be seen in one print.

New Year pictures were traditionally woodblock prints. Some were just black outlines which were then painted by hand while other styles developed multi-block printing. Today there are many centres such as Yangliuqing in Tianjin, Taohuawu in Suzhou and Mianzhu in Sichuan, producing New Year pictures in traditional ways while studying their artistry.

With the introduction of modern printing techniques, some New Year pictures also began to be printed by mechanical presses. Statistics show that 30 million prints were distributed annually in the early 1950s. Now, with the encouragement of the Ministry of Culture, the sale in 1981 was expanded to 700 million (pictures, scrolls and couplets included).

Among the best sellers this year are pictures featuring the world volleyball champions, the Chinese Women’s Volleyball Team and the nine marshals.
New Year Pictures

A picture of five cats.

Mother and daughter.

Monkey King wreaks havoc in the heavens.
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