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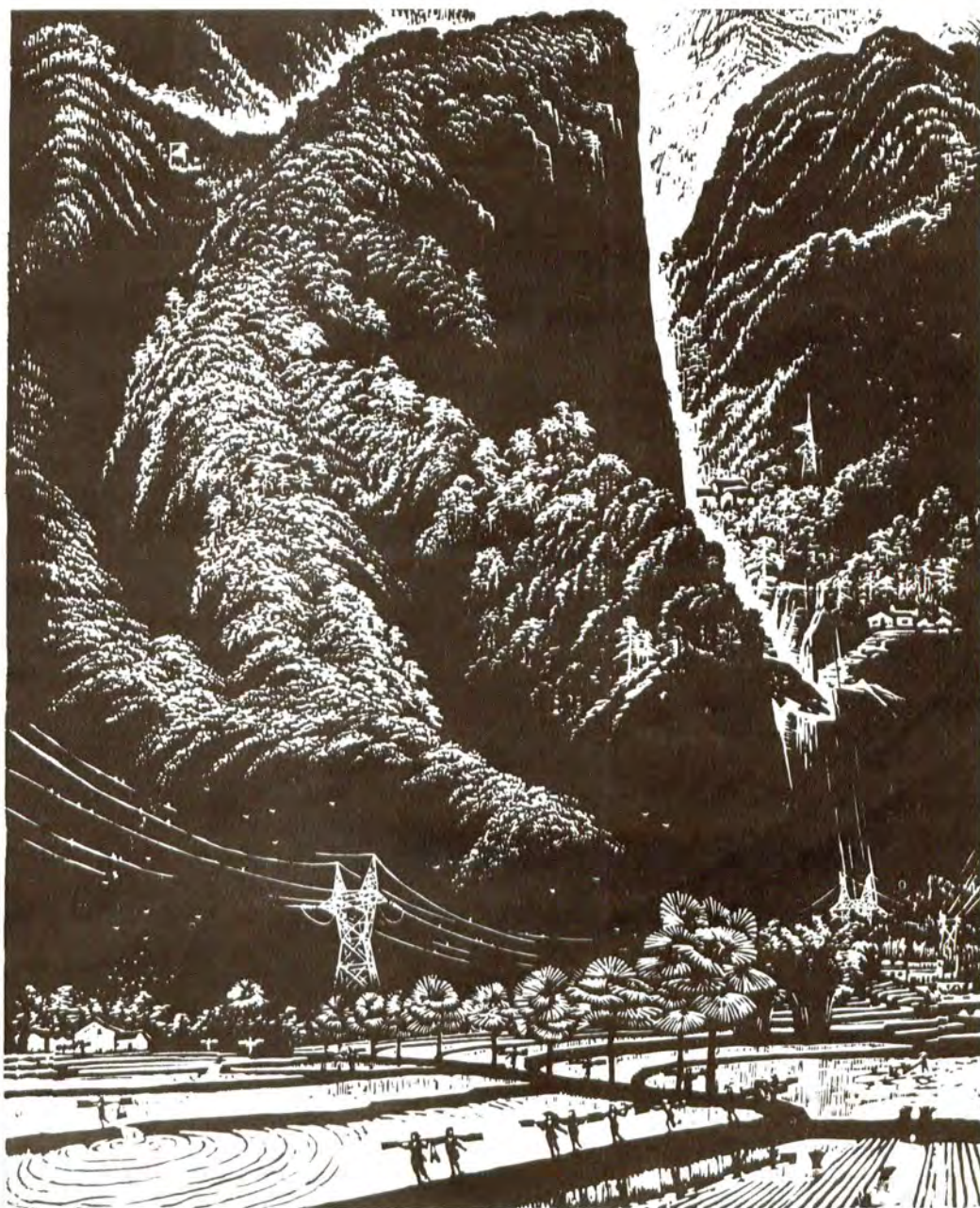
BEIJING REVIEW

北京周報

A CHINESE WEEKLY OF
NEWS AND VIEWS

Premier Zhao in
New Zealand

●
Changes in
Mountainous Areas



LETTERS

"Notes From the Editors"

Your magazine in 1983 has carried many readable and informative articles.

The column "Notes From the Editors" is excellent and the new title (in the Japanese edition) "Topics of Today" is fine and brings out its significance. Articles in this column are simple and to the point. Simplicity is a crucial criterion for an article but it is hard to achieve.

I have read all the "Notes From the Editors" in issues Nos. 1-7 and found each worthwhile. They cover the scope of China's problems today. As they are brief, I could easily read them once, twice or even three times in a short time.

I was moved by the "New Year Message" (No. 1). It begins: "The Chinese people have ample reasons to feel happy as they look back on the past year from the threshold of 1983. Some of the country's achievements were of worldwide significance."

How we had been longing for the day when you could win such achievements! Now the day has come and you report it with verified statistics. For the first time we are confident enough to

"seek truth from facts," or, in other words, seek truth from figures. There were too few statistics in Chinese journals before.

China registered a healthy economic growth and overfulfilled its target of a 4 per cent increase in the gross value of industrial and agricultural production, the message reported. The figure here is much more important than a 10,000-word editorial. It is not only the Chinese people who "have ample reasons to feel happy."

Junichi Yoshizawa
Sapporo, Japan

Nordic Regional Dissimilarities

In an article in your March 14 issue entitled "Nordic Council: Strengthens regional co-operation," you state that "the Nordic peoples have a common language and cultural and historical background." This is not correct. As far as the languages are concerned, the Norwegians, the Swedes and the Danes understand each other (especially the Swedes and the Norwegians) comparatively easily although they all have their own mother tongues. The Icelandic language on the other hand is completely incomprehensible for the other peoples in Scandinavia. The difference between Finnish and the other Nordic languages could be compared to that between

Chinese and Arabic, quite a difference, in other words. As far as the cultural similarities are concerned, they exist only to some degree between the Swedes, the Norwegians and the Danes (if we exclude the Swedish speaking minority in Finland).

Roger Fahlstrom
Stockholm, Sweden

Jurisprudence

I am a student of law, therefore I would like to know about law, the socialist jurisprudence in particular.

I hope that your magazine will carry a column about the fundamental theory of socialist law and administration of justice with clear comparison between feudal-capitalist and the socialist jurisprudences.

Tirtha Koirala
Kathmandu, Nepal

25th Anniversary

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of *Beijing Review* I would like to extend my congratulations to editors and members of the staff.

We readers are delighted by and proud of the flourishing development of your magazine during the past quarter century. The weekly is a source of knowledge about the situation in China and the world as well as a valuable reference for studying policies. At the same time, it serves as a mirror to encourage us to remould ourselves. *Beijing Review* has become something vital in our spiritual life.

Yours is such important and significant work that I cannot help but envy you. I respect your sense of responsibility and enthusiasm. Your magazine has passed through the period of turmoil and is now striving to improve its layout and to build closer contacts with the readers. I think the transformed layout is full of vitality which promises a brighter future.

I hope you continue to perfect this weekly on the basis of experience and advance into the 21st century.

Hiroshi Sakaguchi
Tokyo, Japan

Once upon a time

FAVOURITE FOLKTALES OF CHINA

Translated by John Minford
Introduction by Zhong Jingwen

This ably translated collection of stories from China's Han nationality and 12 minority nationalities are delightful reading that provides useful insights into the country's traditions and customs.

The introduction by one of China's leading folklorists makes the book an invaluable addition to any private or academic library.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Premier Zhao in New Zealand

Premier Zhao Ziyang became China's first government head to visit New Zealand. He and Prime Minister Muldoon exchanged views on expanding Sino-New Zealand trade and economic co-operation as well as on major world issues (p. 5).

China Returns Vietnamese Fire

Frontier guards in the Sino-Vietnamese border areas were compelled to fire back at Vietnamese troops in answer to repeated provocations (p. 6).

New Leaders for Local Governments

Local elections have brought in new leaders including young cadres with professional knowledge, middle-aged people with rich experience in Party and government work, non-Party personnel and competent workers who have no previous professional training (p. 8).

Jordan-PLO Talks Deadlocked

The Jordan-PLO talks are deadlocked for many reasons: differences between Jordan and the PLO, varying attitudes among the Arab countries and, most importantly, Israel's obstinate stand accompanied by the US unjust partiality towards Israel (p. 11).

Superpower Intervention in Nicaragua

A review of the Nicaraguan situation and the efforts of four Latin American countries to alleviate tensions in Central America (p. 13).

Principles for Relations Among Communist Parties

Relations among Communist Parties should be guided by principles of independence, complete equality, mutual respect and non-interference in each other's internal affairs (p. 15).

Developing Mountainous Areas

Progress in mountainous areas has been accelerated by the implementation of new policies, illustrated here by the achievements of one county in Zhejiang Province (p. 22).



In the mountainous areas.
Woodcut by Gan Yingxiang

NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

Individual Industry and Commerce

Individual industry and commerce, a useful form of economy, remain to this day weak and small in China despite their rapid development achieved since the adoption of flexible economic policies in 1979. Private enterprises can grow healthily only if they are given continued support and if administration is improved.

By the end of 1982, China had 2.63 million licensed individual industrial and commercial enterprises, involving 3.2 million people; annual business volume stood at a little over 10,000 million yuan — half of which went to urban enterprises (1.1 million in number, involving 1.36 million people). Although the number of people engaged in private enterprises was nearly 31 times that of 1979, they equalled only 1.3 per cent of the total number of workers and staff members in state and collective enterprises, far below the level of the mid-1950s. In 1953, for example, the nation had 8.38 million people (including capitalists) who ran their own businesses in the cities. They were about half the total number of workers and staff members serving the urban public economy.

Today, 97 per cent of the 1.36 million people in urban individual economic enterprises are engaged in retail commerce, restaurants, service trades and crafts such as tailoring, furniture-making and repairs. The remaining few are engaged

in transportation and house repairs. These trades and professions are indispensable to the people's daily lives, but publicly owned enterprises have inadequate resources to manage them or, in many cases, are too busy to develop them, resulting in poor, scanty services. The development of private enterprises in these fields has made up for existing deficiencies in production and has facilitated the flow of commodities and consumption; it has helped reduce long waiting lines in restaurants, tailorshops, stores and repair shops.

Socialist public ownership has held a dominant position in China's economy since 1956. The growing individual economy today is a far cry from the capitalist economy based on private capitalist ownership of the means of production and wage labour. Individual owners do physical labour themselves even when they possess some means of production. Even those who hire assistants or apprentices are not divorced from labour. Moreover, they rely on state-run enterprises for major raw and semi-finished materials and goods and the scope and modes of their operations are circumscribed by government policies and state laws. Under these circumstances, the private economy is subordinate to the socialist public economy, supplementing it in a very beneficial way. Those who believe that the growth of the private

economy will change the current economic system have, to say the least, overlooked these basic facts.

Ren Zhonglin, Director of the China Industrial and Commercial Administrative Bureau, recently said that it is China's long-term policy to encourage appropriate growth of the individual economy within the scope prescribed by the state and under the administration of the industrial and commercial authorities.

By "appropriate growth," he explained, it was meant that individual enterprises should be developed where and to the extent they are needed and there should be no attempt to curb their growth according to an arbitrary set of figures.

The biggest problem at present is that some people still tend to view individual industrial and commercial undertakings with a "Left" bias, discriminating against them or even seeking to make things difficult for them. Therefore, it is imperative to overcome all interference and to remove all obstacles to their legal business activities and to protect their lawful rights and interests and help them solve problems regarding business spaces, the supply of raw materials and the distribution of goods.

Associations of self-employed workers have sprung up in 617 cities and counties. These organizations, set up by those engaged in individual enterprises on a voluntary basis to

represent their own interests and demands, will soon appear in all China's cities and counties.

Another problem lies in the fact that a small number of individual vendors and street peddlers have resorted to speculation, profiteering and cheating in their operations, thus arousing strong resentment among the populace. There are also others who operate without a licence and in places not designated for business or service activities, or who fail to pay taxes as required by relevant regulations. In Beijing alone, 8,345 violations of market rules and regulations have been spotted since the free markets were opened in 1980. Economic penalties have been meted out to 1,200 of them. To curb these malpractices, the municipal authorities are now working to further tighten up the administration of private economic undertakings.

Protecting the lawful rights and interests of individual industrial and commercial enterprises so as to fully encourage their positive role in the national economy and the people's livelihood, and tightening up the administrative system in order to minimize any negative impacts resulting from free enterprise — these are the two prerequisites for the private economy to develop healthily along the correct road.

— *Economic Editor Jin Qi*



Premier Zhao visits New Zealand

Premier Zhao Ziyang visited New Zealand April 13-17 at the invitation of Prime Minister Robert Muldoon. He is the first Chinese head of state to travel to this Oceanian country since diplomatic relations were established between the two countries in 1972.

During cordial talks the Chinese Premier briefed his New Zealand host on China's economic development, emphasizing that China will continue its open policy in foreign economic relations and will further promote commercial, economic and technological co-operation with other countries.

He expressed the hope for further trade and economic and technological co-operation during the second decade of China-New Zealand diplomatic relations.

Zhao Ziyang also addressed the Kampuchean issue. He de-

scribed Viet Nam's recent call for "dialogue" between two groups of Southeast Asian countries and its "offer" of annual partial withdrawals of troops as essentially the same as its earlier ploys intended to mislead the world and counter the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and the declaration of the International Conference on Kampuchea.

He reiterated China's position on Kampuchea favouring a political solution to the issue based on the unconditional withdrawal of all Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea.

The two leaders also discussed the world economy. Prime Minister Muldoon detailed his proposal for a new Bretton Woods Conference. Premier Zhao said he deeply appreciated this suggestion in the context of the great changes that have



Premier Zhao Ziyang talks with Prime Minister Muldoon.

taken place with the establishment of many developing countries since the Bretton Woods Conference of 1944. The economic development of these countries, he pointed out, is still being obstructed by outside factors that stem from unjust, unequal international economic relations.

The new conference should become a step towards the strategic goal of establishing a new world economic order. This, in turn, depends on whether the major developed countries are willing, as they should be, to go with the tide of historical development, Premier Zhao said.

At a state luncheon he gave on April 15 in honour of Premier Zhao, Prime Minister Muldoon said that New Zealand and China share common interests and are in complete agreement on many issues. "New Zealand supports China's application for membership of the Asian Bank," he added.

Prime Minister Muldoon went on to say that Soviet interference in Afghanistan and their support for, and use of, the Vietnamese Government are inimical to regional security. It is both right and necessary, he said, for the peoples of Afghanistan and Kampuchea to become free of external pressures and to decide how they wish to be governed.

At a press conference held the same day in Wellington, Premier Zhao expressed China's support for the efforts of New Zealand, Australia and other South Pacific countries to strengthen co-operation, oppose outside intervention and safeguard peace and stability in this region.

Premier Zhao arrived in Wellington following a visit to Christchurch.

Frontier guards return Vietnamese fire

Ignoring the protests and warnings of the Chinese Government, the Vietnamese authorities recently initiated repeated military provocations in the Sino-Vietnamese border regions, causing heavy casualties and property losses among our border residents. Chinese frontier guards were compelled to fire back and are now on constant alert.

Qi Huaiyuan, spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, said on April 19 that the tension along the Sino-Vietnamese border was created entirely by the Vietnamese authorities. He warned that they must immediately stop armed provocations against China, or China will reserve its right to fire back.

Renmin Ribao published a commentary on April 17, the gist of which follows:

The intensified provocations by the Vietnamese authorities in the Sino-Vietnamese border regions are closely co-ordinated with their large-scale military offensive in the Kampuchean-Thai border regions. This is not the first instance of simultaneous Vietnamese aggressive acts against its neighbours.

In the past few years, whenever Hanoi has conducted large-scale aggressive military operations in Kampuchea, it has intensified provocations on the Sino-Vietnamese border. These were obvious attempts by the Vietnamese authorities to divert the attention of the international community from their crimes of aggression in Kampuchea.

Now once again, the Vietnamese authorities have resort-

ed to these tactics. They have aggravated tensions in the Kampuchean-Thai border regions by launching a massive attack, slaughtering refugees and moving into Thai territory.

Simultaneously, they have stepped up provocations on the Sino-Vietnamese border and made incursions into Chinese territory while falsely accusing China of "encroaching upon Vietnamese territory," in an attempt to blame the Chinese side for the border incidents.

China has consistently supported the firm ASEAN position opposing Vietnamese aggression against Kampuchea and has resolutely supported the people of Thailand in their struggle against Vietnamese intrusions. As a result, the Vietnamese authorities have increased provocations on the Sino-Vietnamese border in an attempt to tie up China and prevent it from supporting the just struggle of the people of Kampuchea and Thailand. But they have miscalculated.

China has consistently advocated the establishment of friendly relations with all countries on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, and Viet Nam is no exception. China is not responsible for the deterioration of Sino-Vietnamese relations. Sino-Vietnamese relations can be improved whenever the Vietnamese authorities give up their policy of aggression and expansion and stop their anti-China activities.



Acting Premier Wan Li fetes Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

Beijing welcomes Samdech Sihanouk

President of Democratic Kampuchea Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and Madame Sihanouk arrived in Beijing by train on April 17 from Pyongyang. Wan Li, Acting Premier of the State Council, hosted a banquet welcoming the distinguished Kampuchean guests and praised President Sihanouk for his patriotism in a time of national distress.

President Sihanouk said: "The Chinese people always stand on the side of and give firm support without preconditions to the Kampuchean people by various means whenever the Kampuchean people and myself are in distress."

Speaking about Viet Nam's recent "brutal attacks" against Kampuchea, President Sihanouk said: "The Kampuchean army and people are carrying out a resolute struggle under the leadership of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea.

"We will never compromise, nor be fooled by Vietnamese tricks. No matter how long the struggle will be, the Kampuchean army and people are determined to resolutely carry through to the end the struggle for national independence and territorial integrity," he declared.

In the name of the Kampuchean people and the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, Sihanouk expressed his appreciation for the political, diplomatic and military measures adopted by the Thai and Chinese Governments against the Vietnamese aggressors.

He said: "The measures taken by the two Governments are just and have greatly inspired and supported the struggle of the Kampuchean people and army."

In their talks on April 18, Samdech Sihanouk told Acting Premier Wan Li that he will go back to Kampuchea soon to

further promote the patriotic struggle of the Kampuchean army and people against Viet Nam and he is confident in the success of the struggle.

China values its West European ties

The importance of developing relations with West European countries "is a set principle of China's foreign policy," said Premier Zhao Ziyang on April 9 while meeting with a delegation from the General Affairs Committee of the Assembly of the Western European Union led by Sir Frederic Bennett, Vice-President of the Union and Chairman of the Union's General Affairs Committee.

Premier Zhao said that China and the Assembly of the Western European Union hold common positions and similar views on containing hegemonism and opposing the expansionist policies of the superpowers.

The Premier pointed out that China appreciates the efforts of the Assembly to promote a united Europe. He said that China hopes to see a strong and united Europe and expects Europe to play a still greater role in international affairs. "This is in the interest of world peace and stability," he said.

Premier Zhao said there is a great potential for developing economic and technical co-operation between China and West European countries.

"We need each other," he said. "We have different social systems, but we should overcome obstacles and difficulties arising from them. We should understand each other and get to

know each other, so as to adapt to each other and reach a mutual understanding."

He also said he hopes there will be more creativeness and a breakthrough in the economic and technical co-operation through joint efforts.

Chen Muhua visits 5 European nations

Chen Muhua, State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, on March 23 began her visits to Britain, Malta, France, Austria, Belgium, the European Economic Community and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

During her stay in Britain, March 24-31, Chen said that by maintaining its commitment to independence and self-reliance and resolutely implementing a policy of opening to the outside world, China has achieved major progress in foreign trade in recent years. She also pointed out that at present, China has established economic and trade relations with 174 countries and regions on the basis of equality and mutual benefit and has signed agreements and protocols on trade and economic and technological co-operation with 89 countries, including Britain. Between 1978 and 1981 the total volume of China's foreign trade doubled, reaching 73,500 million yuan in 1981.

She added that in the past few years, China introduced an average of only 100 technological items annually, but plans to import 3,000 items from abroad in three years.

She said that in the past two years imports from Britain have fallen mainly because of adjustments in China's national econ-

omy causing some changes in the product mix of imports and that this was only temporary. During the Sixth Five-Year Plan, China will increase the construction and technological transformation of energy and transport projects and will gradually increase the proportion of imported technology and key equipment. This is good news for British manufacturers.

During her visit to Malta, March 31-April 6, a "Long-Term Credit Agreement between the Governments of China and Malta" was signed by the representatives of the two governments. After the signing ceremony, Chen told journalists that China attaches great importance to the agreement and appreciates Malta's participation in the development of coal mines in China.

Chen visited France from April 6 to 13. In her talk to French businessmen, she said that China depends mainly on self-reliance in economic construction, but that China also needs foreign assistance and welcomes private foreign investments and loans from

friendly countries. Reasonable interests on foreign investments are protected by law.

She expressed satisfaction with Sino-French trade relations, but added that there are great potentials for expansion in this area. Sino-French trade will at least double this year. Both sides agreed on a compensatory trade agreement to construct a coal mine in China's Shandong Province. Chen expressed the hope that French businessmen would also participate in other Chinese energy projects, such as off-shore exploration and exploitation, as well as in the transformation of existing Chinese enterprises.

When meeting with Chen Muhua, French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy said that France was willing to transfer advanced technology to China and the French Government was very interested in co-operating with China in the construction of a nuclear power station in China and in telecommunications. He hoped French industry could also contribute to the renovation of China's small and medium-sized enterprises.

New local government leaders elected

Government organizations at various levels have been reorganized following the re-election of the leading bodies of the Party.

The average age of the newly elected government leaders is lower and their cultural level is much higher than their predecessors. Many of the new cadres have practical experience and were recommended by grass-roots units.

The Tianjin Municipal People's Congress elected new government leaders in early April. The average age of the seven

leading members is 55, five years younger than that of their predecessors, and six of them are college educated.

Wu Guanzheng, the newly elected Mayor of Wuhan, is 44 and was a member of the city Party committee who looked after the scientific and technological work. He holds a post-graduate degree from Qinghua University in Beijing.

The Mayor-elect of Shenyang in northeast China's Liaoning Province is 39-year-old engineer Li Changchun. Fifty-two-year-old Liu Jianxing, a senior engi-

neer and formerly director of the Northeast Light-Alloy Processing Plant, was elected Mayor of Harbin in Heilongjiang Province.

Among the new leaders are young cadres with professional knowledge, middle-aged people with rich experience in Party and government work, non-Party personages and workers who are competent but have no professional training.

For instance, the newly elected Mayor of Beijing, Chen Xitong, had worked as workshop Party branch secretary, rural commune Party secretary, deputy county governor, county governor and deputy mayor of Beijing.

The 49-year-old Tianjin Mayor Li Ruihuan was formerly a carpenter and he did not receive a college education. He was Acting Mayor of Tianjin before the election and was elected because his accomplishments made him quite popular.

Another leading member of the Tianjin municipal government is 57-year-old non-Party senior engineer Yao Jun. He has a good command of English, Japanese, German and Russian and has fairly high attainment in scientific and technological research. He was previously chief engineer of the Tianjin Municipal Chemical Industrial Company.

showed the ratio between males and females as 106.3:100.

The Chinese Government has upheld the principle of education and persuasion in implementing the family planning policy and tried in every way to enable the people to understand its benefit to the country and the individual.

It is with the understanding and support of its 1,000 million people that China has been able to score remarkable achievements in family planning.

He said it was unreasonable for certain people abroad to doubt or even reproach China's family planning policy just because some cases of female infanticide were exposed and denounced in the Chinese press.

China stands for a population growth that is in step with its economic development and pursues a policy for one-child families in the interests of the nation. This policy has won international recognition as contributing to the world's effort to control population growth, he added.

He specially mentioned the effective assistance the United Nations Fund for Population Activities has given to China's effort to control its population growth.

Female infanticide punishable by law

A spokesman of the State Family Planning Commission on April 15 condemned female infanticide as an intolerable crime punishable by law.

Commenting on stories about female infanticide appearing in the Chinese press, the spokesman said such cases, although few in number, do exist in certain localities and call for serious attention. The government is strongly opposed to such criminal actions and has dealt with them according to the law.

The exposure of such criminal actions in the press is part of the effort to mobilize public opinion to condemn such crimes.

The spokesman drew attention to Article 49 of the Chinese Constitution which says that "children are protected by the State" and that "maltreatment of old people, women and children is prohibited." He also quoted Article 15 of the Mar-

riage Law as saying: "Infanticide by drowning and any other acts causing serious harm to infants are prohibited."

Premier Zhao Ziyang in his report on the Sixth Five-Year Plan at the Fifth Session of the Fifth National People's Congress stated: "The whole society should resolutely condemn the criminal activities of female infanticide and maltreatment of the mothers, and the judicial departments should resolutely punish the offenders according to law."

Answering a question about the ratio of male and female newborns in China, the spokesman said the overall situation was fairly balanced. He listed the following figures obtained in a sample investigation (one per thousand) in 1982, showing the ratio for 1981 as 107.8:100 (taking female births as 100). The 1982 national census

Journalists council elects officers

Wu Lengxi, Minister of Radio and Television, was elected Chairman of the Third National Council of the All-China Journalists Association at a recent meeting which ended April

14. Wang Xi, Director and Editor-in-Chief of *Beijing Review*, was elected a member of the council's presidium.

Eight vice-chairmen were elected. They include Qin Chuan, Editor-in-Chief of *Renmin Ribao*, Mu Qing, Director of Xinhua News Agency, Liu Zunqi, Editor-in-Chief of the English *China Daily*, and Fei Yimin, publisher of *Ta Kung Pao* in Xianggang (Hongkong).

The council meeting also conferred the title of "outstanding journalist" on An Ke, a reporter of the Guangdong People's Broadcasting Station, who died in March defending others in a fight with three gangsters.

Economic Briefs

- China's annual output of Several hundred types of low-alloy steel and alloy steel has reached 3 million tons, an increase of 50 per cent over that of 1979. The Ministry of Metallurgical Industry plans to raise the portion of low-alloy steel and alloy steel in the total steel output from 8 and 4.9 per cent respectively in 1980 to 12 and 9 per cent by 1990.

- The Xigaze cold storage cave, the first in the Tibetan pastoral areas, was completed recently. Its capacity is 600 tons with the temperature ranging from three degrees below zero centigrade to three degrees above. Previously, no cold storage was available in the Tibetan countryside. In order to improve food supply many places are planning to build cold storage facilities; two more are scheduled to be completed this year.

CORRECTION: Issue No. 14 (April 4, 1983), p. 8, left column, paragraph 4, should read: "Deng Xiaoping, Chairman of the Central Advisory Committee, . . ."

KMT spy and accomplices arrested

The Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau recently announced the arrest of Li Jiaqi, a Kuomintang spy, and his accomplices.

Li, 56, a special commissioner for north China and head of the Beiping (Beijing) station of the Taiwan intelligence bureau, was earlier found to be an agent for the Bureau of Investigation and Statistics of the KMT Military Council (a secret service agency of the Kuomintang).

He was sentenced to prison in 1947 after being convicted of conducting espionage activities in a liberated area in central Shandong Province. After his release in December 1975, he worked on a farm in Qinghai Province.

According to a security bureau investigation, in 1979, Li got in touch with the Xianggang (Hongkong) branch of the KMT intelligence organization. Li began to receive instructions and funds from the KMT intelligence organization in exchange for information he gathered. Li also plotted to

recruit more agents and establish an intelligence network.

Under the instruction of the intelligence organization, Li moved to Beijing in December 1979, purportedly for medical treatment.

Later, Li roped in his weak-willed foster daughter Qiu Yunmei who was on the staff of the China Agriculture Bank, and through her gained access to confidential documents of the Chinese Communist Party and government organizations.

In May 1982, Li informed KMT intelligence agents that he had acquired a sensitive document and requested a courier.

Beijing security offices intercepted the courier, Cai Ping of Hongkong, when she arrived in the capital in January this year, arresting her, Li and Qiu.

All three made full confessions and the case has been handed over to the local people's procuratorate for prosecution.



Security officers handcuff Li Jiaqi.

*Viet Nam***Another diplomatic offensive**

FOREIGN ministers of Viet Nam, Laos and the Heng Samrin regime of Kampuchea held an unannounced "extraordinary conference" in Phnom Penh on April 12. The subject of the meeting, as its communique shows, was how to lure the member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) into a dialogue with the "three Indochinese countries."

In the communique, the three foreign ministers accused the ASEAN countries of creating obstacles to a "dialogue" between the "two groups of Southeast Asian countries" and demanded that a "dialogue" must be conducted between ASEAN and the Indochinese countries. It must have an "open agenda" or items for discussion must be acceptable to both sides, they claimed.

In early March, Viet Nam put forth a proposal for negotiations between the five ASEAN countries on the one hand and Viet Nam and Laos on the other, excluding the Heng Samrin regime. But the ASEAN countries indicated in clear-cut terms that the Kampuchean problem must be solved within the framework of the International Conference on Kampuchea and on the basis of the relevant UN resolutions. As a result, the Vietnamese diplomatic offensive suffered a setback.

After a show of force in the Kampuchean-Thai border regions, Viet Nam now urges ASEAN to eliminate the "obstacles to a dialogue." In

other words, it wants ASEAN to ignore the relevant UN resolutions on Kampuchea and to sit at a negotiating table and discuss items on an "open agenda" prepared by Viet Nam. With such an agenda, Viet Nam would talk glibly about its version of "Southeast Asian problems" without touching on the fundamental problem of the tension in Southeast Asia caused by the Vietnamese aggression against Kampuchea.

It is obvious that Viet Nam is attempting to cover up its crimes of aggression against Kampuchea through negotiations and to divert world attention from its military operations in the Kampuchean-Thai border regions.

It is noteworthy that the "dialogue" proposed by Viet Nam must be conducted between the "two groups of Southeast Asian countries." That means, the "dialogue" must be conducted between the ASEAN countries and the "Indochinese countries," including the Heng Samrin regime.

Such a "dialogue" would put the Heng Samrin regime on a par with the ASEAN countries and make ASEAN accept the Vietnamese aggression against Kampuchea as a legitimate activity.

The communique asserted that Viet Nam will withdraw its troops from Kampuchea in May and will "respect" Thailand's territorial sovereignty. One glance at the tension along the Kampuchean-Thai border

areas caused by Vietnamese military activities is enough to explode these lies.

This was the third time that Hanoi spoke of planned troop withdrawals from Kampuchea, the first time in July 1982 in the form of a "partial troop withdrawal" proposal and the second in February 1983 in the form of a projected "annual troop withdrawal." But in reality, Viet Nam has failed to withdraw a single soldier from Kampuchea. Rather, it has sent to that country both reinforcements and Soviet arms.

The "extraordinary conference" showed that up to now Viet Nam has shown no sincere interest in a peaceful settlement of the Kampuchean problem.

Hanoi continues to defend its aggression against Kampuchea and this latest move is simply one more attempt to legitimize this aggression.

— Li Yongming

*Middle East***Jordan-PLO talks deadlocked**

THE 10-day-old Jordan-Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) talks ended without a concrete agreement and the Jordan Government declared on April 10 that Jordan would not represent the PLO at the Middle East peace talks.

On September 1, 1982, US President Ronald Reagan put forward a proposal for the peaceful resolution of the Middle East problem. According to the proposal, Palestine would establish a political en-

tity connected with Jordan on the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip. Soon afterwards, the Arab countries held a summit conference at Fez, Morocco, which passed the Fez resolutions for an Arab Middle East peace plan. The Fez plan reaffirmed that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and demanded recognition of the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination and to establish an independent country.

When King Hussein of Jordan visited the United States at the end of last year, President Reagan urged Jordan to join the Middle East negotiations, and proposed that a joint delegation of Jordan and the PLO participate in the negotiations. King Hussein indicated that he would make a decision only after consultations between the leaders of Jordan and the PLO.

Diverging Opinions

The deadlock was affected by many factors. There were differences in principle between Jordan and the PLO over Reagan's plan and the Middle East peace negotiations. Jordan agreed to take part in the Middle East peace negotiations on the basis of Reagan's plan because it was afraid that Israel would force the Arab countries and the PLO to accept a fait accompli by building more new settlements in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The PLO indicated that the 16th Palestine National Council meeting held in Algiers in mid-February had adopted resolutions on Reagan's plan and the Middle East peace negotiations and that the PLO position must coincide with the principles of the resolutions, which upheld the Palestinian people's rights

to self-determination and demanded the establishment of an independent state. The PLO regards the Fez resolutions as the minimum programme of Arab activities in the Middle East and will not authorize anybody to negotiate on behalf of it. Thus, the PLO refused to take part in negotiations based on the Reagan plan.

There were also differences within the PLO over whether it would take part in the negotiations or not. It is said that one group indicated that it would join the negotiations as part of a joint delegation of Jordan and the PLO on the condition that the United States would guarantee the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent state. Another group insisted on rejecting Reagan's plan and opposed entering into Camp David style talks.

Arab Countries' Attitude

The differences among the Arab countries on the Jordan-PLO talks are one of the causes of the deadlock. Egypt considered Reagan's plan the best way to resolve the Middle East problems peacefully. Saudi Arabia showed that it would support any agreement the Jordan-Palestinian talks reached. Morocco suggested a special Arab summit meeting to pro-

mote the talks. Syria strongly opposed Reagan's plan, insisting that it is just a product of the Camp David agreements and would lead to Arab capitulation. Some observers believed that Syria's attitude played an important role in the talks.

Israeli Intransigence

The fundamental reason for the deadlock was the obstinate Israeli stand which prevents a peaceful resolution of the Middle East problem and the US policy of partiality towards Israel. The Israeli authorities rejected both the Fez plan and Reagan's plan. Although the United States wanted Jordan and the PLO to participate in Middle East negotiations, it nevertheless refused to recognize the PLO's right to take part directly in these negotiations as the representative of the Palestinian people and also refused to recognize Palestinian rights to self-determination and to establish an independent state.

Although the Jordan-PLO talks have suffered a temporary setback, both sides have expressed the desire to strengthen their ties and develop their relations. Chairman of the PLO Yassar Arafat stated that the two sides would continue their dialogue.

—Chen Jichang, Zhou Guoming

Group of 77

Grappling with economic crisis

THE fifth ministerial conference of the Group of 77, an organization of developing countries, was held in Buenos Aires of Argentina April 5-9. Delegates from more than 100 countries and regions discussed

the world economic situation and other questions concerning co-ordinating third world positions on the economic interests of the developing countries in preparation for the Sixth Session of the United Nations

Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) scheduled in June in Belgrade.

Hard Hit

With the shrinking of world markets, the prices of primary products, the major source of income of the developing countries, have plummeted. The export of primary products dropped from US\$74 billion in 1980 to US\$53 billion in 1982. The international payment deficits of the developing countries were huge and their debts reached a total of US\$630 billion in 1982, double that of 1979. Principal plus interest payments reached more than 20 per cent of the total value of their exports in 1982.

Developing countries' exports of manufactured goods declined as a result of discriminative and protectionist policies adopted by the developed countries. The growth rate of their economies fell sharply to only 1.6 per cent for 1982.

Delegates were unanimous that in addition to internal factors the economic difficulties the developing countries face are a product of the present unequal and unreasonable economic structure of the capitalist world. Therefore they again stressed the struggle to establish a new international economic order and appealed to those developed countries who maintain intransigent stands to change their attitude and start global negotiations as quickly as possible. Many delegates noted that real economic recovery of the developed countries depends on the economic development of the developing countries.

The majority of the delegates

agreed that the developing countries should stress finding solutions to the present urgent problems while making efforts to realize the long-term goal — establishment of a new international economic order. Delegates conducted serious discussions on the three topics of primary products, trade and funds, and adopted a series of resolutions.

Solutions Proposed

Delegates requested the adoption of measures for the earliest possible signing and approval of a common fund to support primary products, for the implementation of the total draft on primary products adopted seven years ago and for an increase in compensatory loans from the International Monetary Fund for price supports for exports. They also called for reforms in the structure of the international trade system, including demands that the developed countries open their markets and rescind protectionist measures against imports from the developing countries.

On the questions of heavy debts and funding problems the developing countries face, delegates appealed to the international monetary organizations, official and private banks of the developed countries to adopt emergency measures to liberalize conditions on loans and lower interest rates so that the developing countries could get new loans to meet their development needs. At the same time it was necessary to readjust present debt schedules and postpone the repayment dates as well as increase aid to the least developed countries.

From long practice and experience, the developing coun-

tries have come to realize that the old unequal international economic structure will not be changed simply by appealing to the developed countries to make compromises. South-South talks and co-operation are fundamental prerequisites for the establishment of a new international order.

Conference delegates also discussed the possibility of establishing a bank or a funding organization of the developing countries.

Head of the Chinese Delegation Shi Lin read a congratulatory message from Premier Zhao Ziyang at the opening ceremony of the conference. Shi noted that the Platform of Buenos Aires was an important contribution to the Sixth Session of the UNCTAD.

— Guan Yanzhong and
Li Zhiming

Nicaragua

Intervention brings tension

FEARING the situation in Central America would deteriorate further, several Latin American countries held intensive consultations in the past few weeks to seek a way to prevent the simmering situation in Nicaragua from degenerating into a regional war.

The foreign ministers of Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela made a two-day tour of five Central American nations, April 12 and 13, to search for means to realize peace in this region. The foreign ministers said in a press communi-

que that they accepted the aspirations of the governments of the five Central American countries they visited for constructive dialogues to alleviate tensions in Central America.

Although there are now at least 18 peace proposals for Central America, the various parties involved have not yet reached agreement on ways to end the conflicts in the area. The foreign ministers of the four countries proposed last January in Contadora, Panama, that the five Central American nations including Nicaragua hold direct negotiations free of any external interference, that all foreign military advisers be withdrawn from the region and arms exports to the area by certain big nations be halted. This earned the four countries the name "Contadora group."

'Undeclared War'

The recent infiltration of Honduras-based anti-government forces is by an anti-Sandinista organization (the Nicaraguan Democratic Forces).

In the first part of February this year, 2,000 armed personnel in two columns entered Nicaraguan territory. A large portion of them remained in the northern mountainous areas near Honduras while a small group penetrated deeper into the central district of Matagalpa.

In early March, they launched attacks against government troop garrisons. Fighting broke out in small towns and medium-sized cities. Confrontations spread to six provinces and the anti-government forces even attacked a town 67



kilometres from the capital. The Nicaraguan authorities announced on March 28 that government troops engaged in large-scale operations had wiped out or dispersed a number of anti-government elements, some of whom escaped to Honduras. But Nicaraguan Defence Minister Humberto Ortega said on March 31 that another group of armed anti-government forces had penetrated the north from Honduras.

This was the most serious anti-government armed intrusion since the overthrow of the Somoza dictatorial regime in 1979. The Nicaraguan Government and the Sandinist National Liberation Front have held a series of emergency meetings to discuss the grave situation. The Nicaraguan leaders announced that the government will implement an emergency order covering many economic, social and military activities, they also called on the whole people to prepare for war.

On April 8, the Sandinist National Liberation Front issued a communique which accused the United States of launching an undeclared war on Nicaragua. The communique said the military intervention was hatched by the United States and

backed by Honduras. It is feared that a direct armed conflict between Nicaragua and Honduras may erupt anytime.

Intervention Condemned

An urgent meeting of the UN Security Council was held on March 23-29 at the request of Nicaragua to discuss the grave situation arising from the infiltration of the anti-government forces.

Representatives from many countries condemned the US pursuit of aggressive and expansionist policies in Central America and interference in the internal affairs of other countries, including armed intervention, attempted sabotage or overthrow of other governments. This has brought much turmoil to this region.

Representatives from Latin American countries have pointed out that the armed intrusion into Nicaragua has destabilized the situation in Central America and threatens world peace and security. They hope that the differences and disputes between Nicaragua and other states in the region can be solved in a peaceful and fair manner through negotiations, free from outside interference.

China's permanent representative to the UN Ling Qing pointed out, "An important cause of the present tension around Nicaragua and, consequently, the deteriorating situation in all of Central America lies in the intervention by a superpower." "In order to diminish and remove tension in Central America," Ling Qing continued, "it is essential that the superpower should cease its intervention there. The independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Nicaragua and other states of Central America should be respected."

— Zhong Tai

Principles Governing Relations With Foreign Communist Parties

by Li Ji and Guo Qingshi

- In establishing, restoring and developing relations with foreign Communist Parties, the Communist Party of China adheres to the principles of independence, complete equality, mutual respect and non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

- The experiences of the international communist movement and the CPC have proved that these are the correct principles for developing relations among Communist Parties. Marx's and Engels' relevant expositions provide the theoretical basis for these principles.

- The working class as well as its political party in each country has the right to independently solve its problems in revolution and construction. No "centre of leadership" or "leading Party" should exist in the international communist movement. Divergent views should be resolved in the spirit of seeking truth from facts and through friendly consultation. The correctness of a Party's domestic lines and policies can only be judged by its own people.

THE new Constitution of the Communist Party of China adopted by the 12th National Congress in September 1982 stipulates explicitly: "The Communist Party of China develops relations with Communist Parties and working-class parties in other countries on the basis of Marxism and the principles of independence, complete equality, mutual respect and non-interference in each other's internal affairs." In his report to the congress, Comrade Hu Yaobang made a succinct exposition of this Marxist principle.

Relations Between CPC and Other Communist Parties

Marxism brought to light the objective laws governing the historical development of human society, expounded the inevitable course of the rise, development and demise of the capitalist mode of production, and put forward the principles of proletarian revolutionary strategy and tactics. However, a country cannot succeed in revolution unless it applies these principles correctly to its concrete practice.

The authors are Vice-Chairman and member, respectively, of the Chinese Society for the History of International Communist Movement.

In its prolonged revolutionary practice, the Chinese Communist Party integrated the universal principles of Marxism with China's actual conditions, worked out the specific strategy and tactics suited to our realities, upheld China's independence, eliminated all kinds of outside interference, and led the people throughout the country in winning great victory for the new-democratic revolution. Immediately afterwards our Party, in accordance with these same principles, carried out socialist revolution and construction, and achieved important results in foreign affairs. Since the fall of the Jiang Qing counter-revolutionary clique, especially since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee, we have thoroughly exposed and criticized the Lin Biao and Jiang Qing counter-revolutionary cliques' interference in and sabotage of the CPC's foreign contacts and corrected past erroneous practices in international exchanges. At the same time, the struggle waged by some Communist Parties in the international communist movement to oppose outside interference and maintain their independence has developed without cessation; these Parties now wish to restore and develop relations with the Communist Party of China.

Given this new situation, we have steadily strengthened friendly relations with Korean Workers' Party, Romanian and a number of other Communist Parties which have maintained close relations with us. We have also established relations with newly founded communist political parties and organizations and have restored and actively and systematically developed friendly relations with other foreign Communist Parties and working-class parties.

In 1978, the Communist Party of China and the League of Communists of Yugoslavia adopted a forward-looking attitude and officially restored relations. Since then, contacts between the two Parties have steadily increased. They frequently exchanged experiences in independently carrying out socialist construction in light of each other's special conditions and views on international issues.

In 1979, the Communist Party of China resumed contacts with several Communist Parties of West European countries. In 1980 our Party resumed or established relations with the Italian, Spanish and Greek (Domestic) Communist Parties.

The Chinese and Italian Communist Parties both agreed to lay aside disputes over which was right or wrong in the past. Both sides agreed that each Party is independent and should join hands again in a forward-looking spirit. The two Parties share many common grounds, but there are also differences of opinion over certain questions. They also agreed that through comradely discussion, they should exchange views fully, enhance mutual understanding and develop their traditional friendship.

The Chinese and Spanish Communist Parties have restored their militant unity and have agreed to continue their efforts to strengthen mutual co-operation and solidarity based on the principles of independence and mutual respect.

In 1982 a new chapter in the history of relations between the Chinese and the French Communist Parties was opened. The two Parties agreed that there should be no "centre of leadership" or "patriarchal Party" in the international communist movement, that each Party should follow the socialist road best suited to its national characteristics rather than copy any ready-made socialist "model," and that differences should not hinder comradely exchanges and co-operation between both sides.

At present, the Chinese Communist Party is restoring and developing its relations with several other Communist Parties in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Historical Experience

Since the end of World War II, international political, economic and social conditions have undergone tremendous changes, and a new situation has emerged in the world revolution and communist movement. Hence Communists in all countries are now faced with a series of new problems in theory and practice. Communists everywhere should have great willpower to break through all kinds of outside pressure, to apply Marxism independently to the study of new circumstances and explore and seek new ways and means to solve problems. A new trend towards independence has emerged and expanded gradually in the international communist movement. It has already become the main tide of the international communist movement today. More and more Parties have issued statements that there does not exist and should not be a "centre of leadership" or "leading Party" in the international communist movement.

The historical experience of the international communist movement demonstrates that the independent solution of a country's revolution and construction is not only the right of the working class and its political party in the country, but also the objective requirement for the victorious advance of revolution.

Because countries differ from each other in socioeconomic conditions and development, in class relations, in the balance of class forces and the levels of political consciousness and organization of their peoples, revolution and construction cannot follow a fixed model or formula nor can they be guided by a foreign "centre of leadership."

The method, strategy and tactics of revolution and construction which will be suitable to any one nation's conditions and characteristics can only be sought and created by the proletariat and its political party there. A country cannot copy mechanically others' experiences and formulas, nor can it force through its own experience and formula. Revolution cannot be imported nor can it be exported. Practice has repeatedly proved that any attempt to forbid another Party to become independent, to impose one's views on another Party or to interfere in another Party's internal affairs can only lead

to setbacks or failures in the revolutionary cause of the countries concerned, and will only undermine the international communist movement.

The cause of proletarian liberation definitely is international in character. The proletariat of all nations need to support and assist each other and must learn from each other's experience. Fundamentally, the victory of revolution in each country can only be achieved when the Party there maintains its independence and self-reliance. The success of the revolution in each country depends on the ripeness of conditions in that country, on the correct line of the Party leading the revolution and on the people's support for the line, principles and policies of the Communist Party of that country.

The victory of the October Revolution was won because the Russian Bolshevik Party led by Lenin independently formulated its own revolutionary programme for urban armed uprisings and then rural revolution in accordance with the prevailing domestic and international conditions. History has proved this to be a correct road. However, the Russian experience could not be indiscriminately copied in China. The Chinese Communists, represented by Comrade Mao Zedong, independently summed up the experience of the past, both positive and negative. Proceeding from our actual conditions, China took the road of encircling the cities from the countryside and seizing political power by armed force. The victory of China's revolution proved that the road we followed was correct.

In this regard, Comrade Mao Zedong made important contributions to enriching the treasure house of Marxism. Nevertheless, just as the Russian model cannot be copied mechanically, China does not demand that other countries adhere to our example.

The historical practice of the international proletarian revolution and the dissolution of the Communist International showed that the communist movement needs no "centre of leadership" or "leading Party." The Communist Parties of all countries, large or small, young or old, in power or not in power, are equal, they cannot be divided into superior or inferior, leader or the led.

No Party, no matter how long its history, how early its revolutionary success, or how rich its experience, has any privilege to place itself above other Parties.

Because the historical developments in different nations are uneven, the awakening of

its workers comes at different times, and each country's proletarian revolutionary movement develops at one time or another, the proletariat and its political party of this or that country will, at different historical temporarily stand at the "forefront" of the international movement and find itself in a "pioneer position."

This position, however, should not become a means by which the proletariat and its party, particularly a victorious party, styles itself the "centre of leadership," or dominates or commands the proletariat and political parties of other countries, or interfere in others' internal affairs. Nor can that party, because of its early revolutionary success, claim any right to monopolize or to be the sole interpreter of Marxism-Leninism, and describe its own practice as the "universal truth" or "common law" or accuse anyone, who refuses to copy its way, of "departing from the classics and rebelling against orthodoxy."

The Chinese Communist Party suffered from the attempt of one self-proclaimed patriarchal Party to keep us under control. It was through resisting such control that our independent foreign policy won success.

All Communist Parties should respect each other. Whether large or small, in power or not in power, all Parties have their strong and weak points. They should learn from each other, emulate the strengths of others to overcome their weaknesses, so that they may move forward together. One Party is not correct in every aspect just because it is large or has a long history, nor is one Party correct in all things just because it has solved certain problems correctly.

Because each party must address different circumstances, has different experiences and perspectives, the emergence of differing opinions about the complicated, ever-changing situation and analysis of the events of the world is completely normal. It is unrealistic to demand that all Parties hold completely identical views on all problems.

In a real sense, the different views among Parties can benefit an overall analysis and understanding of the very complex international events. Divergent views should be reconciled in the spirit of seeking truth from facts, by exchanging ideas, promoting mutual understanding and friendly consultations. On those questions which are not easily resolved at once, each Party may reserve its view until an answer is furnished through practice.

To slap labels on others as opposing some "ism" when divergence occurs does not help solve a problem but simply undermines unity. Such an attitude only stifles thought and creates an atmosphere that is not conducive to exploring problems. It is particularly worth noting that we should not lightly criticize openly a foreign Party, much less gather together one group of Parties to criticize or repudiate another Party or Parties.

The correctness of a Party's domestic line and policies can only be tested by practice or judged by its own people, no foreign Party has any right whatsoever to intervene. In the course of its prolonged struggle, any party will unavoidably commit some errors. Once a Party makes mistakes, they should be corrected by the Party itself after recognizing the mistakes and drawing lessons from them. Open criticism by a foreign Party will not achieve desirable results even if the criticism is correct.

However, it is a different matter if a Party and the government it leads practise hegemonism, issue orders to, attempt to manipulate and control another Party, interfere in others' internal affairs, subvert and invade other countries. Such acts must be strongly repudiated.

Theoretical Basis

When the international communist movement was founded, Marx and Engels emphasized the independence and complete equality of revolutionary movements throughout the world.

Both Marx and Engels held that emancipation of the proletariat is its own business, and stressed that the independent spirit of the proletariat should be developed. The proletariat throughout the world has common goals and tasks, workers all over the world must unite in their struggle.

But "international association can only exist among *nations* whose existence, autonomy and independence in internal affairs are therefore already included in the term internationalism."¹ That is to say, each people or nation carries out its own proletarian struggle, and each country has its own distinctive political and economic conditions. Thus the masses can only be mobilized by adopting tactics suited to that country's specific conditions. Only by doing a good job in its revolution and construction, can one fulfil one's internationalist duty.

In their revolutionary activities associated with the First International and in their later contacts with workers' movement activists, Marx and Engels always respected the principles of developing independently the revolutionary movement in each country and non-interference in its internal affairs.

In the General Rules of the International Workers' Association and in their correspondence with workers' movement activists, they always maintained that the association is the "concerted action," "a centre of connection" that the international "General Council is not the Pope," nor a command centre.

They consistently maintained that with the exception of those cases, in which the tendency of the International Workers' Association could be contradicted, it is in accordance with their principles to leave it to each section to freely formulate its theoretical programme.² In an interview with a correspondent of the New York *The World* on July 3, 1871 on the nature of the International Workers' Association and on whether it would issue orders to organizations in other countries like a Pope or command centre, Marx replied that it is exactly the organizational form of the International which grants the greatest scope for local initiative and independence. It only demands that this movement is oriented to one and the same final aim. Whether such a solution is chosen, that is a matter of the working class of each country. The International does not presume to dictate on this question or even to give pieces of advice.

Engels also pointed out that the tactic which is suited to actual conditions has to be decided on the spot, namely by those who are in the midst of the events.³

Advocating the independence of individual workers' organizations and political parties, Marx and Engels insisted on non-interference in each other's internal affairs. In 1891, when Walery Wroblewski, an activist in the Polish workers' movement, was fighting a contradiction in his own country's Party, he wanted to enlist Engels' aid to intervene in his Party's internal affairs, but Engels replied frankly that he had "no right" whatsoever to meddle in the internal affairs of the Polish Party.

Marx and Engels held that the proletariat needs international unity and co-operation to achieve final victory in their struggle, but that these had to be based on equality.

They stressed particularly that the working class and its political party which found them-

selves in the "forefront" or at the head of the workers' movement should not be chauvinistic, and had no special right to command and lead the working class and its political party in another country. Engels repeatedly criticized the chauvinist thinking displayed by the activists of the French workers' movement who were in the forefront of the international workers' movement, especially the mentality that assumed that France possessed a "birth-right" to leadership of the movement.

In his letter to Paul Lafargue on June 27, 1893, he claimed that the French activists' attempt to make the emancipation of the proletariat a French task was "impossible" and that such an attempt would only "distort the international proletarian movement." He also pointed out: "That the time has passed for ever, when one nation can claim to lead all the others."⁴

Engels criticized sternly the acts and thinking of some leaders of the German Social Democratic Party who considered themselves to be the central leaders of the international movement.

As early as 1875, in his letter to August Bebel, he admonished the German Party, warning that it had no right to speak in the name of the European proletariat, and that it especially had no right to say anything false.

In his letter to Karl Kautsky in 1882, he pointed out specifically: "The triumphant proletariat cannot compel any alien people to accept the means which is possible for their happiness, otherwise its victory will be destroyed."⁵

In his remaining years, Engels stressed particularly that working-class parties should respect each other, observe democratic procedures and consult on the basis of equality. He also exhorted Lafargue, the French socialist, that he must not "put himself into the wrong, by giving the impression that he wants to dictate to the socialists of the other nations."⁶ Engels advised the French activists that they should respect and consult with others in their international activities.

In preparations for the convening of the international workers congress (later it was called the inaugural meeting of the Second International) in 1889, Engels suggested that the French might very well leave the initiative for the congress to the Belgians and the Swiss, that it was certain that the real work, the organization and the preparation would be in their hands

and that must suffice them. If more than that was wanted, then no congress would be possible.

After the founding of the Second International, Engels, in his correspondence with Lafargue, time and again advised the French chauvinists that an absolute precondition for each international action must be a prior understanding of content and form, but just don't spoil it by taking public initiative without first consulting with the others.⁷

The above-mentioned guidance of Marx and Engels are the theoretical basis of our Party's principles of independence, complete equality, mutual respect and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. The international communist movement and our Party's practice have also proved that these are the correct principles for developing relations among Parties.

Our Party has repeatedly stated that we treasure particularly the right of independence gained through prolonged struggle, and we also respect the right of independence of other Parties and peoples of the world. We oppose those who practise hegemonism, and we will never seek hegemonism, neither now nor in the future.

Hereafter, in accordance with the principles for developing relations with foreign Communist Parties as laid down by the 12th National Congress, our Party will establish and develop broader and closer friendly co-operation with those Communist Parties and other working-class parties which wish to establish friendly relations with our Party. This will certainly help the international communist movement and the cause of human progress to grow and flourish.

NOTES

¹ Karl Marx and Engels, *Collected Works*, German edition, Volume 39, page 87.

² *Collected Works*, German ed., Volume 16, page 349.

³ *Collected Works*, German ed., Volume 22, page 442.

⁴ *Collected Works*, German ed., Volume 38, page 494.

⁵ *Collected Works*, German ed., Volume 35, page 358.

⁶ *Collected Works*, German ed., Volume 37, page 166.

⁷ *Collected Works*, German ed., Volume 39, pages 190, 192.

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Private Schools in Beijing

by Our Correspondent Li Yongzeng

BANNED in the middle of the 1960s, private schools of various disciplines have begun to reappear in Beijing in recent years.

The state runs most educational undertakings, but the number of educational facilities lag far behind the needs of socialist modernization. Besides state-run education, the government also encourages various social groups and individuals to open their own schools to provide more opportunities to acquire knowledge and learn professional skills.

"That was August 25, 1966. While I was giving a lesson, a few Red Guards broke into the classroom and bellowed at me to close down the school at once." Wu Huinan, founder of a private tailoring school, could to this day still remember clearly that date. All private schools were banned in that "cultural revolution."

Thirteen years later, however, three people in Beijing petitioned to the government to be allowed to open private schools. Their requests were readily granted. In the following two

years, private schools in Beijing multiplied. Today the city has more than 50, ranging from those that offer general remedial classes to those that specialize in foreign languages, music, art, photography, calligraphy, tailoring, machine embroidery or typing (both Chinese and English).

Well Received

The Changzheng (Long March) School of Accounting has 1,200 students. Its administration is housed in a small room (six sq. metres) in the home of a private individual. When it opened in the spring of 1981 it had 135 students and planned to admit another hundred or so six months later.

But more than 500 people applied for admission. When it began to enrol new students in the autumn quarter of 1982, the figure again nearly doubled. Today the school leases classrooms from a primary school. Most students are in-service accountants from various enterprises. Others are young people waiting for jobs.

Yang Qihua, its founder, explained, "In 1980, about 20,000 students were enrolled in colleges of finance and economics in the country and every year some four to five thousand graduated. Also, the country has 380,000 industrial and communications enterprises and even if each of them is to employ only one such graduate, that will take more than 70 years. You see how badly our country needs students of accounting and finance."

It goes without saying that many a private school owes its existence to the quality of its instruction. The Heping (Peace) School of Tailoring, for instance, provides a written guarantee promising students who take a 3-month course of 156 classroom lessons that they will learn to cut out and make dresses in 40 different styles and that those who fail may continue to attend school without further payment of tuition fee. The students include young people waiting for jobs, in-service workers, housewives and the rural commune members. Most of them are women.



Wu Huinan (right), founding member of a tailoring school, passes on skills to the students.

In more than two years, it has trained more than 4,000 people with another 800 or so still attending. Of these, 12 have begun their business in their own homes. Many young people who are waiting for work were employed in collectively run garment factories after examination. But most graduates cut out garments for their own family members and their neighbours. "Confucius was said to have 3,000 disciples in his day. You have trained even more. That's a good way to serve the people," commented First Secretary Duan Junyi of the Beijing Municipal Party Committee when he inspected the school.

These private schools, which cost the state not a single cent, have already trained more than 14,000 people and have another 10,000 currently enrolled.

Not for Profit

The majority of the staff of these private schools are retirees or people who do not have regular jobs but are well versed in particular branches of knowledge.

Many urban retirees receive government pensions, so their material well-being is ensured. One retired professor, Liu Mingyue, volunteered to teach at home free of charge. Yang Qihua, who is in charge of some 1,200 students, is a retired office worker in his late 60s. For this job, he receives only 30 yuan a month. These two take part in private school education because they want to spend the final years of their life contributing to the modernization drive.

For educated or trained people who do not have regular jobs, the private school jobs also help them to earn a living. Wu Huinan the tailor, who started our story, was formerly a student at Wuhan Medical College. He dropped out in 1953 because of illness and returned to Beijing. For more than a decade before the "cultural revolution" he operated a private school off and on. When the school was closed down he became a casual worker to keep body and soul together.

Now that the school has reopened, he receives a salary of two to three hundred yuan a month from the income of the school, three times as much as the income of an ordinary worker. According to state regulations, he may receive two yuan in remuneration for every class hour. Wu gives four to five class hours of



Yang Qihua (second left), principal of the Changzheng Accounting School, discusses educational work with teachers.

lessons every day, more than 30 class hours a week. Thus, he is three times as busy as a teacher in a regular school. His higher salary is legal on that basis.

There are, of course, some people who open schools just to make a fortune. However, government regulations covering private schools include strict penalties for trying to swindle people who wish to acquire some schooling.

A Beijing Municipal Government document says: "Private individuals undertaking to run schools must abide by the laws of the state, conscientiously carry out the Party's educational policy and principles and guarantee that these schools are run well." Accordingly, anyone who wishes to open a school must first apply to the educational authorities and present a statement describing the purpose of the proposed school, which is then subject to examination.

The main income of private schools is the tuition fee. The present standard is around 10 fen per student for every class hour. The tuition fee for a six-month period of study in the Changzheng School of Accounting, for instance, is 20 yuan. This sum is used for staff salaries, overhead and equipment, with a large portion deposited in the bank as accumulation and welfare funds for the collective.

In his report on revising the Constitution to the Fifth Session of the Fifth National People's Congress, Vice-Chairman Peng Zhen said that the state would mobilize various social forces, including "private individuals approved by the state to run schools," to establish and conduct educational institutions. It looks as if private schools are here to stay. □

Reform in the Mountainous Areas

The destruction of forests and grasslands to plant grain crops continued for many years in the mountainous areas which cover more than half the national territory.

New policies seek to rationalize the use of their natural resources by encouraging diversified undertakings and flexible management methods.

Use Natural Resources Thoughtfully

—Luo Hanxian, guest research fellow at the China Research Centre for Rural Development

MOUNTAINS, hills and rugged highlands account for 69 per cent of China's territory. At 6,624,000 square kilometres, these areas are six times as large as the country's cultivated land but are inhabited by only one-third of its population. Therefore, to accelerate the development of the mountainous areas is of strategic significance in our modernization drive.

A Source of Wealth

Past errors in the guidelines for work and other factors kept these areas poor and undeveloped for many years. Many people considered them a national burden instead of a source of potential wealth.

In fact, these areas have plentiful natural resources and a great many other possibilities for economic development.

One hectare of well-managed mountain land can yield the same income as three to five hectares of grain fields.

For example, most of China's 80 million hectares of forest are in mountainous areas. South China has 1.33 million hectares of bamboo groves and 1.09 million hectares of tea plantations on its mountains and hills.

Another 80 million hectares are bare mountain slopes where trees could be planted and yet another 50 million hectares of mountain land is sparsely afforested.

Mountain products are another source of income. These include various kinds of nuts, fruits, forestry by-products, native produce and medicinal herbs.

The grass blanket over some hilly areas could easily become fodder for stock breeding. Owing to poor management in the past, little value was placed on the 286 million hectares of grasslands in the north or the 66 million hectares on the mountain slopes in the south. These grazing lands could support many more animals than they do at present.

Most of the 134 minerals China is known to possess are located in mountainous areas.

There are good prospects for using these resources and developing industries to process their products.

Management Changes

The major source of food grain for the mountain people is 44 million hectares of culti-

vated land, two-fifths of the nation's total.

For many years the mountainous areas were forced to mechanically apply the principle of "taking grain as the key link" to agricultural development.

Although this policy, which required each area to be self-sufficient in food grain, may be appropriate to certain plains, in the mountains it meant that many people felled precious trees and destroyed grass resources to plant grain crops. This caused serious soil erosion and undermined the ecological equilibrium.

An estimated 5,000 million tons of soil are lost to all forms of soil erosion annually. Experts calculate that the area affected by erosion has grown from 1.16 million square kilometres in the early 1950s to 1.5 million square kilometres today — one sixth of the country's total territory!

The losses in nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium exceed the annual national output of chemical fertilizer.

The destruction of the forests along the upper reaches of rivers is believed to have been one causal factor in the huge 1981 floods in Sichuan Province.

Giving priority to forestry, emphasizing both farming and livestock breeding, diversifying the economy and promoting overall development — these are the new principles for developing the mountainous areas formulated after the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee in 1978. The new principles aim at all-round economic growth through the

most rational possible use of natural resources.

The specific application of these principles varies by locality. The mountainous Gao-xigou production brigade in northern Shaanxi Province is a good example.

For many years it was required to grow only grain crops but its harvests were unable to feed its members. However, a few years ago, based on the new approach to economic growth, the brigade members divided their land into three parts—to raise trees, grass and grain.

This method improved water and soil conservancy and enriched soil fertility. The total grain output has more than doubled and the brigade now has income from other endeavours.

Another example of gearing developmental plans to local needs comes from central China's Henan Province. While encouraging a diversified economy, the province stresses forestry and livestock breeding in its mountainous areas. In addition to supplying more food grain to these areas, the provincial government also has earmarked special funds for mountain road construction to promote trade and communication.

Between 1978 and 1981, the average per-capita income in Henan's mountainous areas rose from 57 to 125 yuan.

Tree Planting

China is preparing a long-term plan for construction in the mountainous areas. One of its important targets is to increase the forest cover from the current 12.7 per cent nationwide to 20 per cent by the end of the century. The average cover for the world is 22 per cent.

To achieve this end, China must plant trees across 670,000

square kilometres (larger than the territory of Switzerland and France together). Eventually, the country's planners hope to raise the forest cover to 30 per cent.

Northwest China, one-third of the country's territory, has particularly thin vegetation. Only 2.6 per cent is afforested and it routinely suffers natural calamities like drought and windstorms as well as soil erosion.

A key national afforestation project is a 7,000-kilometre-long shelterbelt from Xinjiang in the west through 11 provinces and autonomous regions to Heilongjiang Province in the northeast.

The first phase of the "great green wall" includes 5.3 million hectares of land. It began in 1979 and will be completed in 1985.

Decentralized Management

One incentive for production is a new flexible form of management under which the mountains are state owned but managed in a decentralized manner.

Under this policy, about 20 per cent of the collectively owned wooded mountains have been distributed among the peasants for personal use, meaning the peasants keep all income earned from it. The remaining territory is distributed to the peasants on the basis of production contracts which entitle the peasants to keep a large share of the income.

In addition, forest protection legislation has been enacted which bans the wanton felling of trees.

As part of rationalizing mountain lands, timber trees that require long growth periods will be planted in deep and remote areas, and hilly and more accessible areas will be used for fruit trees, tea plants or firewood forests.

Furthermore, the government has properly reduced the agricultural tax in grain for some areas that concentrate on forestry and livestock breeding and changed over to collecting local produce. It also plans to provide grain to areas that cannot grow enough for themselves.

A glimpse of a successful mountain village in Junlian County, Sichuan Province.



Currently, the government allocates several hundred million yuan in special funds annually to support poor mountainous areas. It has recently earmarked an additional 300 million yuan to develop the

mountainous areas in the pre-liberation Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia revolutionary base area.

All these measures are helpful to economic development and welcomed by the peasants.

In 1976 the county's grain output was only 10 per cent higher than the early 1950s, but the population had doubled. Ninety per cent of the peasants consumed grain supplied by the state.

The first real break in the unremitting poverty came after the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee met in December 1978. The tradition of drawing up plans according to concrete conditions was reaffirmed.

Between 1978 and 1982, the county's agricultural output value increased 61.1 per cent and grain alone rose 52.8 per cent.

In the same period, the county's industrial output value increased 51.7 per cent and its average annual per-capita income more than doubled to 215 yuan.

Although Qingtian is still one of the poorest counties among the 70-odd in the province, today its people are better off.

County Party secretary Qin Jingting, 56, said, "All this has been achieved by applying the Party's principle of proceeding from reality and invigorating the economy."

Unsuccessful Attempts

"Our county has many mountains and little cultivated land.

The Rebirth of a County

by Our Correspondent Zhang Anfa

AS far back as anyone can remember, Qingtian was the poorest county in Zhejiang, a province with many mountainous areas. Its nearly half million people inhabited 266,000 hectares, but only 4 per cent of the land was cultivated — 0.03 hectare per capita.

An ironic ancient folk rhythm says, "Qingtian has three treasures: Bamboo slices, which are burnt for lighting; mountain climbing, which replaces padded winter jackets; and dried sweet potatoes, which are eaten all year round."

During the reign of the first Ming Emperor, Liu Bowen, a military adviser from Qingtian County to the imperial court, suggested to his liege, "As all fields in Qingtian County are built on rocks, the collection of



imperial grain should be enormously reduced."

The situation remained fundamentally unchanged until liberation in 1949. The agricultural co-operatives set up in 1956 uprooted the social cause of poverty — the system of exploitation. But still the problem of food grain was not solved in the ensuing two decades.

Qingtian County's Economic Development in Recent Years

Year	Total Industrial and Agricultural Output Value (in million yuan)	% Increase Over the Previous Year	Agriculture Alone (in million yuan)	% Increase Over the Previous Year	Industry Alone (in million yuan)	% Increase Over the Previous Year
1976	54.35		40.26		14.09	
1978	76.92	41.5	49.66	23.3	27.26	93.5
1981	115.98	50.8	76.22	53.3	39.76	45.9
1982	121.35	4.6	80.00	4.9	41.35	3.9



A bird's-eye view of the Qingtian County seat.

The key to economic development is making use of our natural advantages. But in the past we failed to do so," said a county leader.

For many years the guiding principle for agricultural development was "taking grain as the key link." This was considered the only socialist principle, regardless of where it was applied.

Production teams or individuals in the mountainous areas who pursued forestry or livestock breeding were criticized for straying from the socialist road.

Peasants were required to confine themselves to grain cultivation through collective labour. Like elsewhere in the nation, egalitarianism governed distribution of crops and income.

As a result, the local inhabitants had little interest in their jobs and did not get good yields from their small amount of cultivated land.

The people wanted to get rid of their backward economic

status. The provincial government made several attempts to improve conditions in the county.

Before 1978, the top county leadership was replaced three times. However, each new team failed to make substantive changes because they were pushing the same old line.

One county Party secretary named Hou even vowed to lay down his life if he had to do so to improve the county. Appointed in 1977, he was generally regarded a good man dedicated to his job.

He worked very hard to increase the acreage of cultivated land by every means available and achieved some promising results in the first year. But in the second, his method which was based on enthusiasm but not analysis, accomplished nothing.

"Secretary Hou wanted people to have enough to eat and so decided to step up grain production," said a deputy county head who had worked with Hou.

"But even though his intentions were good, his methods violated the economic laws of mountainous areas. In order to plant his fields, he had to cut down more trees in forests that already had been seriously damaged. The fields produced very little grain and incurred great costs because they lacked water."

Proceeding From Reality

The present county Party secretary, Qin Jingting, was appointed in June 1979.

"I am fortunate," he said. "I came into office six months after the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee, which threw out old 'Left' guidelines and put forward the principle of proceeding from reality to promote all-round economic development. This kept me from following the same path that was pursued in the past."

His first step was to lead an investigation of natural resources and to canvass public opinion in the mountainous areas. He and several hundred county cadres covered all 53 communes over a few months.

Their investigation concluded that forestry should be the priority for the mountainous areas but that they also should attempt to develop all facets of the economy in the light of local conditions.

The next step was the institution in the units of collective economy of the responsibility system in the form of decentralized management and contracts. The system distributed remuneration according to output.

These policies have proved popular and successful.



In the quarry of Jintian production brigade.

Forestry Emphasized

Historically, the county's mild climate made it ideal for timber production. However, the area has no coal, so wood also is needed for fuel.

The county Party committee set reforestation goals to accommodate both needs. In addition to taking measures to protect the remaining timber forests, it contracted peasants to manage 33,000 hectares of land suitable for growing trees. The income from this land will be shared by the parties to the contract.

The county distributed an additional 13,000 hectares of unused mountainous areas among the peasants for personal use. They are entitled to all the income from this land.

These measures greatly accelerated tree planting. Although the majority of the forests is still young, the county's income from forestry increased from 1.88 million yuan in 1976 to 6.06 million yuan in 1981.

The county also has 140,000

hectares of mountainside grazing land that was not used effectively in the past. They have been redistributed to production teams and individuals for decentralized management.

Another area of growth in the county has been the breeding of cattle, pigs, goats and long-haired rabbits. One well-known livestock breeder is Wu Shuicai of the Haixi commune, who was criticized three times in the past for "taking the capitalist road" because he raised cattle. Each time he was forced to sell off his animals and resume grain production.

However, today his livestock wins him praise. "The current policy is great," said the proud owner of four cattle. "The more you raise, the better you are."

Industry and Farming

Commune- and brigade-run industries using mainly local raw materials have also benefited from the new policies. In 1982, the county's output value from such undertakings was 29 million yuan, 2.5 times the 1978 figure.

"Qingtian has plentiful re-

sources for industry—it has minerals, stone quarries and water for hydroelectric power. Its processing industry, stone carving and bamboo weaving all have a promising future," said Zhou Hanguang, who has been a county cadre for more than two decades.

Rapid industrial development has created many much-needed jobs. The 1,600 commune- and brigade-run enterprises in the county employ 26,800 people or 19.6 per cent of its rural labour force.

The most inspiring change is that Qingtian is self-sufficient in food grain, an unprecedented achievement for the county.

The county produced 89,140 tons of grain in 1981, an increase of 26,500 tons over 1978. The increase of grain in the three years from 1979 to 1981 was 21 per cent greater than the total increase in the 29 years from 1950 to 1978. The output exceeded 95,000 tons in 1982.

In 1978, the annual per-capita food grain was only 150 kilograms. In 1981, it was 250 kilograms.



A forestry farm built on once barren hills.

Grain production was increased without expanding the area of cultivated land. County leaders attributed this achievement to the responsibility system.

"Our county's little cultivated land is scattered and so is our population. Most work is done by people rather than animals or machines. Contracting the land to households is the most suitable management method for us," said county Party secretary Qin.

A production team leader praised the responsibility system on a household basis as a more rational method.

"In the past the production team leadership was responsible for everything important or trivial in the team. The peasants had little say in decisions that affected the team.

"Now that the land has been contracted to each household, the production team handles only the larger issues like the planting plan. The peasants are responsible for meeting production quotas for the state and the collective, but can achieve them as they see fit. And they can keep all the above-quota part of the yield themselves. So everyone is working very hard these days," he said.

Confidence in the Future

Secretary Qin summarized the county's situation by saying that it has great potential for growth but requires much work.

In grain production, for example, the per-hectare yield is only 7.5 tons, half of that in better-off counties. The output can be substantially increased with the application of scientific farming methods such as planting better-quality seeds and more rational use of fertilizer and irrigation.



New houses in Shankou commune.

Forestry, livestock breeding and sideline occupations are all in rudimentary form and can be greatly developed.

The total output value of commune- and brigade-run industries is only 30 million yuan a year, far behind the output of better-off counties.

Secretary Qin said the county's problems are its scanty funds and its limited power production. However, the energy problem may be solved fairly soon.

The state plans to build two big hydropower stations in the county in co-operation with Japan. They will have a combined generating capacity of 850,000 kilowatts. The county has already built a small station with a 9,600 kilowatt capacity that will soon go into operation.

Secretary Qin predicted that the national goal of quadrupling the annual gross value of industrial and agricultural production by the end of the century will be overfulfilled in Qingtian County.

A Village Comes to life

by Our Correspondent Zhang Anfa

In an old Chinese folktale, a poor but honest man is rewarded for his goodness with a magic golden ax that becomes his vehicle to wealth.

The changes in the No. 9 agricultural production team of Hecheng, Qingtian County, seemed as miraculous as those in a children's story. The "golden ax" was the Party's new rural policy.

A few years ago, the production team was so poor it had to

borrow from the state to buy a simple plough. Its members had so little that they became hopeless.

Things are quite different today. The team, one of the richest in the county, has 100,000 yuan (about US\$60,000) in savings. Its 142 members' average per-capita annual income (excluding earnings from household sidelines) rose from 33 yuan in 1976 to 351 yuan in 1982. The team also operates a

FEATURE/MOUNTAINOUS AREAS

labour insurance programme that funds monthly pensions for retired peasants and supports free education for the children, both rare in China's countryside.

Liu Youdian, 65, team leader for more than 20 years before he retired, said that prior to the 1976 downfall of the gang of four, the team was allowed to grow grain only, and thus could use only its very limited cultivated land. Its annual output value was less than 4,000 yuan (about US\$2,700 at that time).

Several times the team tried to start a stone quarry but was criticized for straying from the socialist road and ordered to stop.

After the "cultural revolution," Liu's son, Liu Xiaoran, succeeded him as team leader and enacted the new agricultural responsibility system.

Farming. He instituted the responsibility system in farmland management and established the principle of more pay for more work.

He contracted with a group of 11 people to cultivate the team's one hectare of grain field—a task that had engaged more than 50 people in the past.

Grain output increased substantially for each of several years. In 1982, it reached 15.21 tons, a 3-fold increase over 1976. During the slack season, the agricultural group engages in sideline occupations. In 1982, it earned 56,000 yuan, 14 times the team's total output value in 1976.

The 50 people (about 70 per cent of the team's labour force) who are no longer tied up in farming are divided into several tasks. The team has 41 hectares of previously unused mountain slopes and beaches strewn with

granite rocks. As it is near the county seat and has ample transport facilities, it has tremendous potential for development.

Quarry. The team has restored its granite quarry and now produces granite troughs used by chemical plants. At a little over 2,000 yuan apiece, the troughs are less expensive but more durable than those made of stainless steel. The team earns as much as 50,000 yuan a year from producing the troughs.

Afforestation. Another successful new undertaking is the nine hectares of mulberry trees planted on former stony beaches, which enabled the team to earn 20,000 yuan in 1982 by breeding silkworms. The county government is publicizing this venture in the county, which has many stony beaches.

The team also planted tung oil trees and orange trees and began to raise chicken and fish with lucrative results.

Industry. As its first industrial project, the team set up a hardware factory to make screws and bolts for urban factories. Its annual output value is 70,000 yuan and its products are sold in Hangzhou and Beijing.

Early in 1982, the team spent 45,000 yuan to buy a fire hose factory that had incurred losses for many years.

This move showed Liu Xiaoran's foresight and boldness. He realized that the factory was the only one in the province that produced fire hoses. Its losses were mainly attributable to poor management and the poor quality of its products.

After the team took over the factory, it invited two techni-



A production team in Hecheng gathers in a rich harvest of silkworm cocoons.

cians from Shanghai to help solve the quality problem and instituted a production responsibility system. The factory went into production last August. By the end of 1982, its output value had reached 210,000 yuan.

Other Undertakings. The production team also has a cement plant, a transport team, a construction team, a hotel, a restaurant and a small department store.

In 1982, the output value of the team's undertakings reached 510,000 yuan, 127 times greater than in 1976. Now, all households in the team have savings in the bank. One-third of them have moved into new houses.

An 82-year-old peasant, who once lost confidence in the future and had contemplated suicide and is now receiving a retirement pension, said, "I hope I live to be 100." □

THEATRE

Artistry of Cheng Yanqiu

Cheng Yanqiu (1904-58) was one of Beijing opera's most accomplished female impersonators.

Cheng starred in *qing yi* roles as good and virtuous women. The role is named after the black robes (*qing* means black) worn by women in classical plays and, in feudal China, was always performed by men.

Born to a poor family Cheng started his opera training early and first appeared on stage at 11. Not long after he finished his apprenticeship, he nearly lost his voice. However, under the tutelage of the noted Beijing opera artist Wang Yaoqing (1880-1954), he began to use his lower register and concentrated on enunciation and length of breath. With a subtle and gentle voice he created woman's images in his own innovative singing style.

Off stage, it was difficult to imagine that this tall man could act a female role. Yet his artistry was superb and creative. By varying the flow of his two long white additive sleeves, he could reveal the inner feelings of different characters to appropriate degrees.

Cheng was also a talented playwright. He wrote several operas based on classic poems or epigrams. He was always ready to learn: upon seeing a film of the *Merry Widow*, he used its *coloratura* in his best opera *A Purse of Jewel*.

Cheng was faithful to his be-

lief that dramatists should be conscious of their duty to elevate man's goal in life. Most of the operas he wrote or played in are rich in meaning; his portrayals of fortitudinous women were particularly moving in tragedies which reflected the sufferings of women in old China.

When he was young he authored and starred in *Tears in the Mountain* which is based on a Chinese saying "Tyranny is fiercer than a tiger." The female lead is a young woman whose father-in-law and husband are unable to pay the exorbitant taxes and flee to the mountains where a tiger kills them. Her mother-in-law overcome with sadness also dies and her son is pressganged into service to replace his father. When the corrupt officials come again for the unpaid taxes, this woman commits suicide in



Cheng in "Tears in the Mountain."



Cheng Yanqiu.

anger. This tragedy exposes the darkness of the past: warlords indulged in wars, officials extorted taxes and the people lived in poverty.

In *Snow in Summer* Cheng starred as Dou E. To save her innocent mother-in-law who is accused of murder from a cruel torture, she goes forward in her place. On the execution day, Dou E prays and snow falls in June, a sign of the injustice.

Cheng created a woman of strong will in *Sword*. The heroine Shen Xuezheng uses her wisdom and strength to kill the man who murdered her husband and tried to possess her.

Cheng Yanqiu, was honoured as one of the four famous female impersonators, the other three being Mei Lanfang (1894-1961), Shang Xiaoyun (1899-1976) and Xun Huisheng (1899-1969) because of his attainment in the artistry of Beijing opera. Art and literature critic Feng Mu commented, "In view of the development of Beijing opera, Mei Lanfang and Cheng Yanqiu played an epoch role in advancing Beijing opera and in enriching the artistic system."



Left: Xin Yanqiu (fourth from right), an actress of the Cheng school.
Right: Li Qianghua (right), student of Cheng Yanqiu.

Cheng's voice was sweet but his singing style is very difficult to imitate. Only a few actors and actresses have mastered the Cheng style. Cheng opened Zhonghua Opera School to advance Chinese opera, but his ambitions were crushed by the Japanese invasion of China. He then gave up performing and withdrew to the countryside where he farmed for six years. After liberation, Zhou Enlai was concerned about the preservation of the Cheng school of Beijing opera and sent students to him. Premier Zhou suggested a special theatre be established to perform his plays and an institute to study his artistry.

Cheng died 25 years ago but the performances during a recent festival in Beijing by his successors still reflect his brilliance.

One of his students Zhao Rongchen is now an adviser to the China Opera Institute, who lectured in the United States in 1982. In the early 40s, when Zhao was stranded in Chongqing, he kept writing for advice to Cheng who had withdrawn to the countryside.

One of Cheng's outstanding

successors is Xin Yanqiu, who was never one of his students but has diligently studied his techniques.

Cheng's students are now training a younger generation and their efforts were revealed in the festival where many youthful performers appeared on stage. The coming forward of these promising young and middle-aged successors delights the Beijing opera art circles who long to see the Cheng school of art being passed on.

ART

Zhang Daqian

exhibition

An exhibition of paintings by Zhang Daqian opened on April 13 in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, to honour the memory of this traditional Chinese painter who died on April 2 in Taipei, Taiwan Province, at the age of 84.

Zhang was an expert in traditional Chinese painting, specializing in the art of the Dunhuang Grotto. He studied in Europe and North America and

incorporated Western techniques into traditional Chinese style. This resulted in a genre of landscape painting which blends large splashes of black ink harmoniously with other colours.

The 150 paintings now on display in Sichuan, his native province, include many of his best works. *Melons and Fruit* was painted when he was still young. Also exhibited are *The Heavenly King*, a copy of a Dunhuang mural, which he did during the War of Resistance Against Japan (1937-45), and *Mount Huangshan*. Some of the works on display were created in his later years to express his yearnings for his native place and relatives.

After his recent death, condolences were sent to Taipei from the mainland. The messages included those from his children who reside in Sichuan and Ningxia and one from Wu Zuoren, a famous Chinese painter and a personal friend of Zhang Daqian.

On April 13, a memorial meeting was held in Shanghai and the Sichuan exhibit opened under the auspices of the Sichuan branch of the Chinese Artists' Association and the provincial museum.



Spring sowing. Paper-cut by Lin Ximing



Visiting the wife's family.

Woodcut by Jiang Qi

Chinese Countryside in The Eyes of Artists

Artists capture the bustle of activity in China's vast countryside brought by the policy changes of the last few years.



A country scene. Woodcut by Zheng Yulin



A mountain village courtyard.

Woodcut by Gu Yuan

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