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BEIJING REVIEW

北京周报

A CHINESE WEEKLY OF
NEWS AND VIEWS

- Women Workers Assert Their Rights
- China: From Oil-Importer to Exporter





Woman inspectors of the People's Armed Police at the International Airport in Beijing.



Shaanxi peasant Li Fenglan, a painter, teaches at the school of arts and embroidery which she herself set up in her home town.

Women at Different Posts



Ni Yixin, the first woman Doctor of Engineering in China.



Luowu Aniu (left), a deputy county head of Xide County in Sichuan Province.



SPOTLIGHT

Jin Xiaoyun (second from left), 41, a college graduate of Hui nationality, was voted mayor of Yinchuan, the capital of Ningxia.

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CONTENTS

NOTES FROM THE EDITORS	4
Reform of Art Performance Troupes	
LETTERS	5
EVENTS & TRENDS	6-10
Financial Situation Improving Rapidly	
Machinery Industry Restructured	
Petrochemicals to Meet Needs	
Joint Ventures Improve Industry	
Inland Helping Tibet	
Ocean Shipping Develops Rapidly	
China Trains More Judicial Personnel	
Tibetans Abroad Welcomed Home	
Chinese Refutes Indian Rumour	
Sino-US Cultural Centre	
Tian An Men Gets New Older Look	
Giant Pandas Still in Danger	
INTERNATIONAL	11-14
Soviet Union: Diplomacy Tends Towards Rigidity	
India: Unstable Political Situation	
Colombia: Efforts for Internal Peace	
OPEC: Oil Prices Have Gone Up Again	
France: Mitterrand's Maghreb Trip	
Broad Prospects for Closer Latin America Ties	15
China-US Ties Began 200 Years Ago	16
China's Burgeoning Oil Industry	17
What China Was and Is	21
A Look Down the Road to Reform	25
SPECIAL REPORT	28-32
The Lives of Working Women in China	
Women Workers' Committees	
Women Support Reform	
A Group Leader	
CULTURE & SCIENCE	33-34
COVER: The oil dock of the Zhanjiang Port in Guangdong.	
Photo by Wen Yuecai	

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Wu Xueqian on Sino-Latin American Relations

Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian, who just returned from a trip to Latin America, told *Beijing Review* that as contacts and mutual understanding increase, he believes Sino-Latin American co-operation in political, economic, trade and technological fields will be boosted (p. 15).

Financial Situation Picking Up

State revenues, which dwindled for three years (1979-81), have increased steadily since 1982. In the first half of this year, revenues rose by 22.6 per cent as compared with the corresponding period last year. More emphasis is placed on the development of cultural and educational projects (p. 6).

Oil Industry Growing

China has turned from an oil-poor country into a crude oil exporter over the past 35 years. How was this achieved? What is the future of the industry? Find the answers on p. 17.

China's Past and Present

Noted New Zealand writer and poet Rewi Alley, who is now an honorary citizen of Beijing, describes the old and the new in China, with comments on the military, minorities, education, communications and the spirit of struggle and sacrifice (p. 21).

Status of Women Workers in China

This special report features the lives of women workers in China and their role in the current economic reform. Enjoying the same legal rights with men in all fields, China's working women also receive special care from the state to satisfy their special needs and interests (p. 28).

Rigid Soviet Diplomacy

Since the Soviet Union's new top leader took power last February, Moscow has shown inflexibility in its foreign relations and imperiousness in handling major international affairs. This policy, however, is not an expression of strength, but the result of Soviet frustration and anger in the face of an adverse international environment (p. 11).

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Reform of Art Performance Troupes

by XIN XIANGRONG
Cultural Editor

China now has more than 3,400 professional art troupes staffed with more than 220,000 artists.

These troupes, though having played an important role in livening up cultural life in China, have quite a few problems in their organizational structure and management, which have hampered the further development of art. A nationwide reform is therefore needed.

Preparations for the reform of art troupes began in 1979, trial reform got under way in some units the next year and picked up speed last year. Major tasks of the reform are as follows:

- To expand decision-making powers. For a long time before reform, art troupes had to comply with their superior administrative organizations for everything and were denied the necessary right to decide their own affairs.

Reform has helped troupes shake off administrative binds. With reform, they have the right to decide their own repertoire and their superior organizations need only make directives concerning issues of prime importance. Troupes also have the right to decide on the recruitment, dismissal, promotion or demotion of their members. They may also decide their financial affairs.

- To reform the leadership and bring the role of artists into full play. Some troupes in the trial reform have introduced a system with the troupe leader taking full responsibility. The troupe leader is responsible for art creation, formulation and implementation of

a performance plan and management of the troupe while associates take charge of everyday routine. In such a system, artistic affairs are under the charge of the professional.

The Party committee of the troupe is responsible mainly for Party affairs and political and ideological work to ensure and supervise the implementation of the Party's principles and policies.

Before reform, however, the

The nationwide reform will result in more and better performances, more skilful artists and, in all, a thriving socialist art.

Party committee dominated almost everything and artists were often unable to play a major role in decision-making.

- To introduce the contract responsibility system. Before reform, the state handled all the troupe expenditures, including salaries. The state also received all the income. As a result, artists and staff members did not care how their troupe was run and how much their troupe earned. It had nothing much to do with them. This practice, known as "everybody eating from the same public pot," did not encourage enthusiasm for creation and performance.

With the contract responsibility system introduced, the artist's income hinges upon how well his troupe does and the quality of his own work. The troupe, in addi-

tion to getting a subsidy from the state, can keep a proportion of its earnings — a change from the old practice of turning in all its earnings.

This means that the better the troupe is run and the more performances it gives, the more money it will earn and the more income its staff will make. Such a reform has greatly aroused the artists' enthusiasm.

- To seek a fair distribution of art troupes. At present, most professional troupes are concentrated in big and medium-sized cities. Reform calls for art troupes to be set up in the frontier and minority-inhabited areas. Some city-based troupes which are organizationally overlapping will be merged or closed. Only a few experimental troupes will remain at the national level, while at provincial and county levels troupes will be fashioned to their own conditions, with emphasis on developing a repertoire which has local characteristics. Troupes short of skilful artists are to be reinforced with good performers or merged with others.

Minority troupes will be given preferential financial treatment. Troupes which often give performances in the minority areas are to be rewarded. Troupes which try new repertoire are to be particularly supported. And those which perform for children will all the more be rewarded.

Many troupes are in good condition and promise even more after the reform. It is expected that the nationwide reform will result in more and better performances, more skilful artists and, in all, a thriving socialist art.



Article About Mao Welcomed

I think the article "Mao Zedong in His School Days" (No. 18 & 19) was very good. Born in a out-of-the-way small mountain village of Hunan Province in China, which was cut off from the West, Mao Zedong couldn't help getting in touch with various mixed ideas under that historical environment. But through his own independent thinking and social practice, he completely cleared away these ideas and accepted Marxism. In a simple and clear way, the article depicted the ideological process Mao underwent before he accepted Marxism.

Young Mao Zedong also believed in Buddhism, and later was influenced by bourgeois reformist ideas. At the beginning of the 20th century when China was undergoing a great change, he took part in the Revolution of 1911. Afterwards he engaged himself in individual study, which greatly broadened his field of vision, and then through careful study of social science at the No. 1 Normal School in Changsha, he gradually formed correct political ideas.

It may be impossible for me, since I live in a different time, to fully understand the hardships experienced by Mao Zedong in that period. But, his broad interest in books, his ambition and persistence to transform society and his courage to fulfil his own ideals really set a good example for me.

Hiroshi Sakaguchi
Tokyo, Japan

I was most interested in the article "Mao Zedong in His School Days," for I knew almost nothing about Mao Zedong and other Chinese leaders before.

I hope you will carry a more detailed biography about Mao Zedong.

Masakichi Sato
Fukushima, Japan

Adhering to Mao Zedong Thought

Mao Zedong was a great Marxist-Leninist and great proletarian leader. His contributions to the Chinese revolution and to the progress of humanity are truly tremendous. He has also made valuable contributions in enriching the treasure house of Marxism-Leninism. These contributions have been made by creatively applying the revolutionary principles of Marxism-Leninism to the specific conditions of the Chinese revolution and developing them further.

Adhering to Mao Zedong Thought is one of the four cardinal principles of the Communist Party of China. Now the Chinese Communist Party is using this as a guide to its actions, and developing it further. This is a correct policy.

But, in my opinion, the attempt to confine Mao Zedong Thought within the narrow limits of a country and make it a national thing is wrong. The ideas that Mao Zedong developed on the basis of Marxism-Leninism in the new conditions are unquestionably great. Every really great idea has the inherent tendency to transcend national boundaries and to become international.

Satyajeet
Kathmandu, Nepal

Comments on "Letters"

I hope you carry more of your readers' views and opinions, es-

pecially those on specific matters without any political biases. From these one can find the readers' opinions similar to or different from those in China on some issues and they may also serve as a reference for the Chinese Government.

Pan Baoji
Shizuoka, Japan

I believe that *Beijing Review* enjoys a large readership. In order to make the magazine more variable and vivid, wouldn't it be better if you devote two pages to readers' letters instead of one?

I would like to see more features in your magazine, such as poetry, jokes, and friendly correspondence between your readers and the Chinese people. If possible, you may also leave a small space to deal with some questions about China and the Chinese people, such as "Why most Chinese don't wear long beards?"

I would also like to read some interviews with writers so we can learn more about Chinese writers.

Faida Justin
Rwanda

More Coverage on Youth's Activities

As a weekly of news and views, frankly speaking, your coverage on youth and their activities is inadequate, and I think you should make some improvement.

I would like to suggest that you introduce some fascinating scenic spots, such as waterfalls, famous mountains and lakes. To do so you should carry colour photos of natural scenery inside the magazine as well as on the covers.

Prof S. S. Bhatia
New Delhi, India

Financial Situation Improving Rapidly

State revenues rose by 22.6 per cent in the first six months of this year as compared with the corresponding period last year, Minister of Finance Wang Bingqian announced at a meeting in Beijing on August 28.

If the trend continues, he said, it is likely that revenues will exceed predictions with considerable increases over 1983.

State revenues, which dwindled for three years (1979-81), have increased steadily since 1982, Wang reported. In 1982, revenues were 6.6 per cent more than in 1981, and in 1983 they increased by 11.7 per cent over 1982.

State expenditure has basically ensured key capital construction projects, especially the development of cultural, educational, scientific and public health programmes. The previous system of expenditure, which stressed capital construction at the expense of cultural and educational programmes, has been improved.

Between 1979 and 1983, Wang said, the government spent 143.8 billion yuan (about US\$71.9 billion) on price subsidies.

During the same period, the government spent 129 billion yuan (about US\$64.5 billion) providing jobs for city residents, raising wages, rewarding outstanding enterprises and workers, and building homes and urban public utilities.

This was partly responsible for the recent improvements in living conditions despite price increases, he said.

Compared with 1978, average income per capita in the countryside increased by 131 per cent in 1983; while in the cities and towns, the income rose by 66.5 per cent.

The total savings deposited by citizens increased by 323 per cent.

Enterprises throughout China have been able to draw benefits amounting to 68.1 billion yuan, Wang added, as a result of new policies which increased the local management powers of businesses. Enterprises also overcame problems by increasing efficiency and improving financial management.

Although there is a basic balance between the revenues and expenditure for three years running, problems still remain, mainly low economic efficiency, high financial subsidies and scattered distribution of capital funds, Wang announced. Efforts to improve the economy will continue through financial reforms in 1984 and 1985 which Wang revealed at the meeting.

Machinery Industry Restructured

An important step is being taken to reform China's industrial system. According to a recent State Council decision, the Ministry of Machine-Building Industry will delegate its management power to the major cities where subordinate enterprises are located. Meanwhile, the provincial, municipal and autonomous regional machine-building industrial departments and bureaus will also relinquish their management power over these enterprises.

This decision will change the long-standing practice in China's economic management system where the government economic departments were responsible for administrative leadership as well as the business management of their subordinate enterprises.

Under the old system, several hundred thousand enterprises had no decision-making power in their independent operation; therefore, their initiative and enthusiasm were greatly reduced.

Before the reform, the administrative institutions handled all matters of the subordinate enterprises, trifling or important. In fact, leaders were so preoccupied

with meetings and reports that they neglected matters of economic policy. Obviously, this old practice increased bureaucratic red tape and inefficiency.

To reform the machine-building industrial management system, the decision-making power of individual enterprises will be expanded. Enterprises will be freed from multi-level interference, and increased economic efficiency will result.

After the reform, the Ministry of Machine-Building Industry will function as a unit under the State Council and will concentrate on formulating policies and drawing up overall plans as well as organizing co-operation between subordinate enterprises and overseeing their work.

While reforming the management system, other systems will also be transformed, including production, marketing and raw material supply. Enterprises will assume increased power to use their profits and to trade with foreign countries in order to promote production. Co-operative efforts between enterprises in different

cities and regions will also develop. But no national monopoly corporation will be set up.

Petrochemicals To Meet Needs

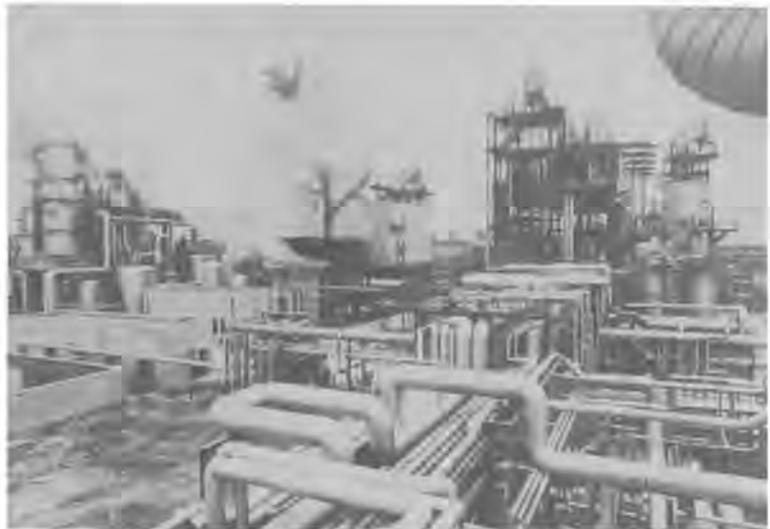
Twenty years ago, most Chinese got their attire from the cotton field, not the oilfield. At that time synthetic fabrics were considered luxuries. Today, they are becoming so inexpensive and their use is so widespread that they are turning up in work uniforms and even washcloths. The vigour of the petrochemical industry is transmitted to the common people through the fabrics around them.

At present, China produces 100 million tons of crude oil and more than 10,000 million cubic metres of natural gas annually. Its oil production capacity has risen from the 27th in the world in the 1950s to the seventh today.

It was in 1963 that China became basically self-sufficient in oil, and then gradually becoming a country able to export oil and oil products. Over this period, production of oil products started from scratch and is now in high gear. For example, 650,000 tons (or nearly 2 per cent of the world total) of ethylene, the raw material of the chemical industry, was produced last year. In comparison, production was nil in 1970.

In 1983 China produced 1.1 million tons of synthetic resin, 167,000 tons of synthetic rubber, 400,000 tons of synthetic fibres, 677,000 tons of synthetic detergents and 5.6 million tons of synthetic ammonia.

It has mastered world-level oil-processing techniques and is in a position to manufacture 730 varieties of petrochemicals, of which 90 are up to international standards.



Snapshot of a petrochemical works which was recently put into operation in Shanghai.

In 1972 China imported five petrochemical and synthetic fibre plants and 13 oil and gas processing plants. This imported equipment began to operate by the end of 1976.

Joint Ventures Improve Industry

A Computer Terminal Production Line. In August, a production line assembling computer terminals began operation in Beijing. A joint venture of Compac of the United States and the Beijing Electronic Display Unit Factory, the production line has an annual capacity of 20,000 computer terminals.

Rigorous tests proved that the quality of the products meets international standards.

Microcomputer-Controlled Teleprinters. The Shanghai Communications Equipment Plant and the Swedish Philips Electronic Industry Corporation signed a contract last July for the co-operative manufacture of microcomputer-controlled teleprinters in Shanghai.

Under the contract, the Shanghai plant will import the tech-

nology and equipment capable of producing 5,000 PACT 220 electronic teleprinters for the next three years.

After three years, the Chinese plant will produce annually 3,000 teleprinters which meet Philips' standards. By that time, most parts will be made in China, except for a few key electronic components.

Offshore Oil Drilling Company. The China National Offshore Oil Corporation, the Japan Drilling Company, Ltd. and the Japanese Itochu Commercial Co., Ltd. signed a contract in mid-August to set up the China Bohai-Japan Offshore Drilling Company, Ltd.

The registered capital of the new company is US\$ one million, and the 10-year venture will be based in Tanggu by the Bohai Bay. The Chinese corporation and its Japanese partners each provided 50 per cent of the investment.

The new company will provide offshore drilling service both inside and outside of China. The jack-up drilling vessel *Hakuryu 9* will begin operation in the Bohai Sea, and the semi-submersible drilling ship *Hakuryu 3* will soon start drilling operations in the South China Sea.

Double-Cylinder Washing Machine Production Line. A production line capable of manufacturing 200,000 double-cylinder washing machines a year began operation in June in the Yingkou Washing Machine Plant in Liaoning Province with the help of the Japanese Matsushita Electrical Corporation. Earlier the plant had an annual capacity of 100,000 single-cylinder washing machines with the assistance from the same Japanese corporation.

By 1990, the plant plans to raise its production to one million machines.

Lubricating Oil Company. China Sun Oil Company, with an annual production capacity of 50,000 tons of lubricating oil, opened recently in the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone.

The enterprise, a 15-year joint venture of the China Petrochemical International Company and the American Sun Refining and Marketing Company, has registered capital of US\$6.5 million.

Inland Helping Tibet

Thirty-three key projects in Tibet are now under way in the areas of industry, transportation, energy development, culture, education, public health and tourism.

A total of 43 projects are planned in Lhasa, Xigaze, Shannan, Nagqu, Qamdo and Ngari. Nine provinces and municipalities have sent more than 500 experts and 8,000 workers to aid in the construction.

The projects are a response to a decision made at a forum on Tibet held in Beijing last February. At the forum, the Central Committee named 43 key projects and designated Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Shandong, Sichuan, Fujian and Guangdong



Architect Tang Baoheng (left) and engineer Yi Deqing from Zhejiang Province study a Tibetan-style building in Lhasa.

to carry out the construction work in Tibet.

With great concern for the construction of Tibet, General Secretary Hu Yaobang personally took part in deciding on the size of these projects. The State Council has set up a consulting organization and sent out seven working groups to Tibet to solve problems arising from the Tibetan projects.

Within four months, two-thirds of the 33 projects now under way have completed their basic construction work. All phases of construction, including designing, building and interior decorating, are handled by personnel supplied by the co-operating provinces and cities.

Ocean Shipping Develops Rapidly

Deadweight capacity for China's ocean-going fleet exceeded 12 million tons in 1983, an increase of 46 times over the 1961 capacity when the China Ocean Shipping Company was founded under the Ministry of Communications.

The fleet has more than 550

vessels, including roll-on and roll-off ships, container and general cargo ships, bulk carriers, refrigerator ships, passenger vessels and oil tankers.

The fleet handles 37 per cent of China's import and export commodities, as well as 65 per cent of the freight required to be carried by Chinese ships in accordance with agreements reached with foreign countries. It also transports more than 10 million tons of cargo a year for third countries.

China's fleet has more than 60 regular liner services every month, calling at 426 ports in more than 100 countries and regions. It has opened direct routes to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Southeast Asia, the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea, the Mediterranean, Africa, Europe, America and Oceania. It has also opened container shipping routes to the United States and West European countries in the past two years.

The fleet shipped a total of 42.82 million tons of cargo in 1980, 8.5 times more than in 1970.

Despite the effects of a world-

wide recession in ocean shipping services in the last few years, the Chinese fleet carried more than 41 million tons of cargo last year.

In an effort to strengthen ties with other countries, Chinese officials have signed shipping agreements with 32 countries, and the China Ocean Shipping Company has opened offices in Japan, the United States, Egypt, Britain, the Netherlands, Belgium, Australia, the Federal Republic of Germany and Algeria.

China Trains More Judicial Personnel

A quarter of a million people work in China's legal system, and courts and prosecutors' offices exist in all but a few remote areas, according to a report made by Minister of Justice Zou Yu at a national conference on judicial work in Beijing.

There are now 36 law institutes, colleges and departments, and 14 times as many law students as in 1978.

Zou said that 23 provincial schools for training judicial workers have been established, and 160,000 people have been trained over the past five years.

There are now about 14,000 full- and part-time lawyers and 6,800 notaries, he added.

Zou recommended that still more lawyers and other judicial workers be trained to meet the country's growing needs.

People's courts have handled 85,000 economic criminal cases, 3 million civil cases and many economic disputes involving 2,960 million yuan.

Twenty-nine thousand judicial assistants and 5.5 million people's mediators throughout the country handle about 8 million civil disputes each year.

The meeting also called for improvement in the rehabilitation of criminals into useful citizens through labour.

Tibetans Abroad Welcomed Home

Tibetans living abroad are welcome to send their children to study in Lhasa with tuition and living expenses covered by the government.

Zhao Junwen, chairman of the Lhasa city committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), extended this invitation at the second session of the local fourth committee of the CPPCC held in mid-August.

After graduation, Zhao said, the students are free to stay in Lhasa or to go abroad again.

Zhao also welcomed Tibetans abroad to visit their relatives in China. In addition, they may return to Tibet and set up enterprises or invest in joint ventures.

Among the 586 overseas Tibetans who returned to China to visit their relatives and friends in the past six months, 57 have settled in Tibet.

Many returnees brought back merchandise and sold it in Lhasa and other places under the same tax-exemption or reduction policies as local merchants. Some visitors also discussed investment possibilities with the local departments concerned in Lhasa.

Chinese Refutes Indian Rumour

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said at a weekly news briefing on August 29 that an Indian press report that Chinese

troops have entered Hunza area is "pure fabrication."

The Indian newspaper *The Tribune* reported that three companies of Chinese troops had entered Hunza area and set up barracks in Baltit, Altit, Ghumessara and Ghulmit. This followed Pakistan's recent consent to the establishment of Chinese military bases in Gilgit and Karachi, the paper said.

The Chinese spokesman rebuffed the news as "pure fabrication with ulterior motives."

At the same briefing, the spokesman said that the Chinese Government condemns the Afghan authorities for air attacks on Pakistan border villages.

Sino-US Cultural Centre

A Sino-US cultural centre, jointly sponsored by Nanjing University of China and Johns Hopkins University in the United States, held a foundation-laying ceremony in Nanjing on Sept. 2.

Dedicated to exchanges between China and the United States in culture, science and education, the centre will also train senior personnel working for Sino-US relations.

Regular teaching and research work will be undertaken by the co-sponsors.

The centre will enrol 50 Chinese and 50 American students with master's degrees or comparable qualifications for a year's training, starting in September of 1986. China and the United States will each provide six to eight professors.

During the 1986-1987 academic year, 12 courses will be given by the American teachers. Thirteen courses will be given by the Chinese teachers.

Tian An Men Gets New Older Look

Tian An Men, a symbol of motherland in the minds of the Chinese people, looks more magnificent and beautiful after four months of major renovation work. Restoring the gate of the former Imperial Palace was an important project preparing for the celebration of the 35th anniversary of the founding of New China, this October 1.

Tian An Men guarded the palace throughout the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) Dynasties. Built in the 15th year of the reign of Ming Emperor Yong Le (1417), the gate was first named Cheng Tian Men (Gate of Inheriting the Heaven). It was renamed Tian An Men (Gate of Heavenly Peace) when it was repaired in the 8th year of the reign of Qing Emperor Shun Zhi (1651). In 1949, it was from the Tian An Men rostrum that Mao Zedong proclaimed the founding of the People's Republic of China.

In 1952, when Tian An Men was renovated for the first time since liberation, the rostrum was decorated with colour drawings of dragons. The outlines and details of dragons were covered with gold foil.

But repairs on Tian An Men in 1970 during the "cultural revolution" altered the ancient style by replacing the golden dragons, an imperial symbol, with sunflower patterns.

The current work on Tian An Men restored all 12,000 square metres of original colour drawings. Workers also painted the lower wall and the adjoining reviewing stands.

The newly restored Tian An Men stands grandly at the head of the 40-hectare Tian An Men Square. Large neon lights being

fitted at two sides of the square and the rostrum will enliven the night of National Day.

Giant Pandas Still in Danger

Giant pandas are still threatened by famine since arrow bamboos, their main food source, began to flower and die over vast areas last year.

China boasts about 1,000 giant pandas which are scattered mainly over the Qionglai and Minshan mountainous areas in Sichuan Province.

Botanists say that the flowering and withering of arrow bamboos is a special sexual reproduction cycle occurring every 50 years. Young bamboos are produced every year from the roots through asexual reproduction.

During the period of sexual reproduction, arrow bamboos blossom, bear seeds, wither, and release seeds.

The seeds produce new plants; however, the whole process takes three to four years. Unfortunately the giant pandas cannot eat the new bamboos for over 10 years.

Arrow bamboos cover an area of 105,333 hectares in the Qionglai mountainous area where over 500 pandas live. Arrow bamboos began to flower and wither over 92,000 hectares since May last year, and they are still flowering and withering in the remaining 13,000 hectares.

Huajie bamboos grow in an area of 86,667 hectares in the Motianlin area of the Minshan Mountain, where over 200 giant pandas now dwell. From 1974 to 1976, *Huajie* bamboos flowered and withered over 44,440 hectares, killing 138 giant pandas. The remaining *Huajie* bamboos began to flower in recent years.

News from the Qingchuan and Pingwu Counties of the Minshan mountainous area reported that the arrow bamboos which flowered and withered in 1975 are now thriving. The tallest arrow bamboos are one metre high and the smallest ones are 40 to 50 centimetres. The new bamboo groves have sprouted young leaves for the first time.

Experts warn that giant pandas in the Qionglai mountainous area, the major disaster area, will confront the same serious famine this winter and next spring. The famine conditions are expected to worsen in some localities.

This giant panda is threatened with famine due to the flowering and withering of arrow bamboos, its main food source.



Soviet Union

Diplomacy Tends Towards Rigidity

by YU SUI

THE Soviet foreign policy, as expressed by Konstantin Chernenko since he took power in February, has attracted world attention.

According to world press reports, the Soviet Union has shown inflexibility in its foreign relations and imperiousness in handling major international affairs.

Moscow escalated its war efforts in Afghanistan. Since late April, Soviet troops have launched large-scale ground and air offensives in Panjshir Valley and other guerrilla bases. The Soviets tried to eliminate the major forces of the guerrillas, but they met strong resistance and suffered heavy losses. This demonstrates that the Soviet Union stubbornly wants to continue the war instead of withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan under the United Nations resolutions.

In Indo-China, Chernenko increased support to the Vietnamese aggressors and strengthened the Soviet base in Cam Ranh Bay to serve the strategic goal of expansion.

In April, the Soviet Union carried out the first joint air and naval manoeuvre in Haiphong when the Vietnamese invaders launched a dry-season offensive along the Kampuchean-Thai border and increased provocative activities along the Vietnamese-Chinese border. The Soviet action contradicts its stated goals of easing tensions in Southeast Asia and improving relations with China.

The Soviet Union had been in a passive position for some time in the Middle East, a hot spot of the rivalries between the United States and the Soviet Union. But the new Soviet leader, unwilling to be an onlooker, is increasing Soviet influence after the US Mid-East policy suffered a setback.

Soviet-US relations are getting colder while the rivalries between the two superpowers grow more fierce. The two countries entered a new round of arms race centring on the deployment of medium-range missiles in Europe, which aggravated the tense situation in Europe and the world.

The US allies in Western Europe are worried about the chilly Soviet-US relations. Some Western heads of government and foreign ministers visited Moscow in an attempt to ease the tensions in East-West relations and promote the resumption of Soviet-US nuclear arms negotiations.

However, the foreign leaders found that the Soviet leader displayed a more rigid attitude than his predecessor and might attempt to freeze the East-West relations for a long time.

The Soviet press also increased its attacks on Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany, condemning them as pursuers of militarism and revanchism.

After taking power, the Soviet leader said that the improvement of Soviet-Chinese relations would be desirable. The Soviets, however, only want to be flexible in the areas of economy and trade, refusing to remove the key obstacles in

the way to normalization of the Sino-Soviet relations.

Observers noticed that Moscow increased its anti-China propaganda. Since March, anti-China reports in the Soviet newspapers and released by TASS have doubled, compared with last year.

The Soviet attack is not only aimed at China's independent foreign policy, but also at its domestic policies and principles of socialist construction. Chernenko even personally attacked China by name on June 11 and 26 when defending Vietnamese aggression.

In the past six months, Moscow often publicly criticized certain countries that are members of what the Soviets call "socialist community." The Kremlin condemned these countries whenever it thought their domestic policies or foreign relations did not conform to Soviet policies.

Such Soviet actions give an impression of frustration and anger, obstinacy in the face of an adverse international environment. World opinion views the Soviet rigidity in foreign policy as a typical defensive reaction.

In the past year, the Soviet Union failed to stop the deployment of US missiles in Western Europe. In despair and fury, the Soviet authorities realized the difficulty in improving relations with the United States with President Ronald Reagan in power.

The Soviets hoped that a stall in US-Soviet relations would hurt Reagan's chance of re-election in November.

In the meantime, the Soviet Union considered everything unfavourable to its contention with the United States as a thorn in its side, and vented its anger on China,

other third world countries and even some East European countries.

Some foreign newspapers pointed out that in the face of

many serious problems, the depressed Soviet leaders are trying to conceal their weaknesses behind the facade of self confidence.

shops and stopping transport communications. Sixteen persons were killed in the strike and paramilitary troops were sent to the state in response. In New Delhi more than 100 opposition M.P.s submitted a memorandum to President Zail Singh protesting the sacking of Rama Rao and withdrawing from the House of the People (Lok Sabha). On August 19, 100,000 people held a protest in Hyderabad, the capital of Andhra Pradesh, demanding Rama Rao be reinstated.

The unstable situation has spread to the entire country. On August 25 a nation-wide strike was staged. During the strike, some 10,000 workers in Madras were arrested and another 40,000 people across the nation were detained.

Work in Karnataka and Kerala States came to a standstill and some protestors made strong statements before committing self-immolation.

In the wake of the massive strike, Andhra Pradesh Governor Ram Lal stepped down on August 25.

The August 16 ouster of Rama Rao was not the first political sacking this summer. On July 2 Farook Abdullah, Chief Minister of Kashmir controlled by India, was removed from his position.

Observers read the two dismissals within such a short period of time as a sign that the political tests of strength in India may not be over.

India

Unstable Political Situation

by LI WENZHENG

THOUGH it has been more than three months since Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi sent in troops to remove Sikh occupiers from the Golden Temple of Amritsar in Punjab State, the political situation has not stabilized. In fact, instability has spread from the northern India all the way to Andhra Pradesh in the south.

Andhra Pradesh State Governor Ram Lal on August 16 asked Chief Minister Rama Rao to resign, telling him he had lost majority support of the state assembly, but Rao refused to do so. To demonstrate that he still enjoyed majority support, Rao led 163 of 295 assembly members to meet the state governor, but all of them were arrested and released after an hour.

Rama Rao also asked the state assembly to hold a meeting to determine whether or not he held the majority. The state governor flatly refused and appointed former State Finance Minister Bhaskara Rao to succeed Rama Rao.

Since India gained independence in 1947, Andhra Pradesh with a population of 54 million has been governed by the National Congress Party. Even when the National Congress Party did poorly in the 1977-79 election, it still held power in Andhra Pradesh.

Two years ago film star Rama Rao organized the Telugu Desam Party. In January 1983 his party

defeated the National Congress Party, with its 99-year history, in the assembly's election and set up the state government with himself as leader.

After his dismissal last month, Rama Rao charged that Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was behind his removal and such actions are a part of overthrowing the states ruled by the non-Congress parties before the general elections. Opposition parties contend that the dismissal of Rama Rao defiled democracy. Indian newspapers said that what happened in Andhra Pradesh was aimed at weakening opposition parties and clearing the way for the National Congress Party in the January 1985 elections. Indira Gandhi refuted this, stating that she had nothing to do with Rama Rao's dismissal.

In the wake of the dismissal, the co-operation between India's opposition parties has strengthened. On the day of Rama Rao's dismissal, the Telugu Desam Party and other opposition parties staged a big strike in Andhra Pradesh, closing

Colombia

Efforts for Internal Peace

by LIU XIAOLU

COLOMBIAN government officials and guerrilla groups that have been active across the

country have recently taken steps towards peace.

On August 23 and 24 two big guerrilla groups — the Popular Liberation Army (EPL) and the

April 19th Movement (M-19) — signed separate ceasefire agreements with the government which took effect on August 30. Meanwhile, the Workers' Self-Defence (ADO) also signed a ceasefire agreement. Those agreements came in the wake of last May's ceasefire pact signed with the largest guerrilla group — the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC). So, at present, only the National Liberation Army (ELN), one of the four strongest guerrilla groups, continues armed activities. Following the ceasefire agreements, fighting in many areas of Colombia has stopped. Millions of people held rallies in the capital city of Bogota and in other major cities to support the ceasefire agreements. The public celebration indicates that peace is the urgent desire of the Colombian people.

There are six main guerrilla groups in Colombia. According to official statistics, they total about 7,000 fighters, the largest contingent in South America. The existence of guerrilla groups in Colombia has much to do with the gap between the rich and the poor, unemployment, the unstable political situation and other social issues. Since President Belisario Betancur came to power in 1982, he has made efforts to seek peace with the guerrilla groups through negotiations.

Starting with a readjustment of the economy, the Betancur government has worked to hike production and improve living conditions. This has yielded some returns. Meanwhile, the government itself has made efforts to cure long-standing problems such as bureaucracy, red tape and corruption in attempt to win the confidence of the people.

In November of 1982 the Betancur government urged the congress to approve an amnesty law which would pardon all imprisoned guerrillas. Since then

the government has formulated some concrete measures, providing funds to boost economic recovery and spur production in the areas where the guerrillas have been active, and assisting the pardoned guerrillas in getting jobs and entering schools.

The conciliatory attitude of the government was welcomed by the guerrilla groups and paved the way for negotiations.

At the beginning of this year the government made substantial progress in negotiations with the largest guerrilla group, FARC. Both sides signed a peace accord on March 28 and fixed the date of ceasefire. By May 28 the complete ceasefire between the government and the FARC took effect and a ceasefire oversight commission composed of representatives from the various parties was set up.

The agreement with FARC, which was active in 80 per cent of Colombia, has created a favourable situation for peace in all parts of the country. Following the FARC ceasefire, another guerrilla

group, EPL, submitted a document to government authorities that spelled out its own negotiation conditions. Following this, M-19, after the consultation with EPL, also requested emergency negotiations with the government.

The ceasefire pacts between the government and M-19 and EPL have experienced ups and downs. Both sides were scheduled to sign the peace accord on August 14, but a former leader of M-19, Carlos Toledo Plata, was assassinated on August 10, and the signing was postponed. After Plata's death, President Betancur, who was visiting abroad, quickly returned home, expressing regret and reaffirming his promise that the peace process would continue. The government did finally sign the ceasefire agreements with the EPL and M-19 on August 23 and 24.

The government's push for peace is popular and has won appreciation at home and abroad. The signing of the ceasefire agreements is just a first step towards peace, as many political, economic and social issues remain unsolved.

OPEC

Oil Prices Have Gone Up Again

by JIANG HONG

OIL prices in the world market are up again and sluggish oil sales have improved since the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) reduced its production quota in mid-August.

Western press reports have speculated that the OPEC nations reduced quotas to help turn around the falling price of oil and to maintain the official OPEC oil price.

Mana Saied al Oteiba, chair-

man of OPEC's supervisory committee for the market and Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), announced that the average per day oil output of the OPEC countries has dropped from 18 million barrels in late July to 17 million barrels now, some 500,000 barrels less than the peak quota approved by the OPEC London conference in March 1983.

Oil production in the Gulf countries, which accounts for 50 per cent of OPEC's total oil production quota, has dropped rapidly. It was reported that Saudi

output has decreased to about 4 million barrels a day from 5.5 million in June and July, and Iran's output has dropped to 1 million barrels a day from 1.8 million. Iran has also ceased to sell its oil at a discount price on the market. Kuwait's daily output has dropped below its quota. And Nigeria, the major oil-producing country in Africa, has dropped its oil output 400,000 barrels below quota.

The world's total oil output during the first six months of this year reached 54.7 million barrels per day, 7 per cent increase over the same period last year. However, the world's demand for oil only increased about 3 per cent. As a result, an oil glut appeared in the first half of this year and caused a sluggish world oil market. About 2 million barrels of surplus oil were produced daily in July. In late July and early August, OPEC had to cut down the spot oil price to the lowest mark in the past 17 months. While reducing its oil production, OPEC countries began to raise the spot oil price in the second week of August, from US\$3.50 per barrel below the official price to US\$1 below. And the spot oil price has raised steadily.

The decision to cut oil production last month was made by OPEC countries to maintain their standard oil prices. In early August, a delegation headed by OPEC President Kamel Hassan Mabhur, Oil Minister of Libya visited the United Arab Emirates, Nigeria, Gabon, Algeria and two Latin American countries. Another OPEC delegation headed by Mana Saied al Oteiba also visited Iran, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Iraq and Indonesia in August.

Heads of state of the OPEC nations warmly welcomed the two delegations and expressed their determination to abide by the

London agreement so as to safeguard the unity of the organization. They also expressed their willingness to make contributions to ensure the oil prices and stabilize the oil market.

It is reported that the third OPEC delegation headed by the

Saudi Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani will soon visit the Soviet Union, Britain, Norway and some other non-OPEC countries. That delegation will ask those countries to make efforts to stabilize the world's oil market and co-operate with OPEC.

France

Mitterrand's Maghreb Trip

by YANG DI

SEPARATE visits by French President Francois Mitterrand and Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson to Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia have highlighted France's preoccupation with recent developments in North Africa.

After a two-day visit to Algeria, Cheysson arrived in Tunisia on August 29 while President Mitterrand, who had long talks in Morocco on August 30 with King Hassan II, extended a visit to Portugal the following day. What caught the public in Paris by surprise was that the president, instead of returning to Paris after his Lisbon trip, flew to Morocco again on August 31.

French sources described Mitterrand's trip to Morocco as "strictly private," but politicians, diplomats and journalists in Paris are not convinced. As former government minister Michel Jobert put it, there are no private trips when one is president.

The French press reported that the visits to North Africa were aimed at investigating the "entirely new situation" in the region following the signing of the "union accord" on August 13 between Morocco and Libya.

With the signing of the accord, a confrontation has been set up between two alliances in North Africa, now formalized in the

Morocco-Libya accord and "the treaty of fraternity and concord" signed by Algeria, Tunisia and Mauritania in March last year.

If France is to maintain its close relations with the Maghreb countries, the French press agrees, it can not show indifference towards the deterioration of the situation in the region.

Le Matin de Paris indicated that France worries that the accord has become a divisive factor that could fragment the unity of the whole region. Paris fears that the new development may also lead to an escalation of the conflict in West Sahara.

French political analysts say Mitterrand's government is afraid that the rapprochement between Morocco and Libya will prompt Algeria to increase its aid to the Polisario Front.

They say the Chadian issue is another of France's concerns. Both France and Libya maintain a military presence in Chad. According to the terms of the recent Morocco-Libya accord, any aggression against one country will be seen as a threat against the other.

Observers agree that Mitterrand's trip was also undertaken to determine whether the King of Morocco would be willing to play the role of intermediary between France and Libya in eventual negotiations over the Chadian issue.

Broad Prospects for Closer Latin America Ties

Wu Xueqian, State Councillor and Minister of Foreign Affairs, in an exclusive interview with "Beijing Review," said his recent (August 1-15) trip to Mexico, Venezuela, Argentina and Brazil has convinced him that great potential exists for closer Sino-Latin American co-operation in political, trade, technical and other fields.

Question: You are the first Chinese Foreign Minister to visit Mexico, Venezuela, Argentina and Brazil. Would you tell us something about your impressions and the significance of the trip?

Answer: My trip to the four Latin American countries, though quite short, left an unforgettable impression on me. As soon as I stepped on the soil of Latin America, I was embraced by friendship. The warm reception I received from the four governments and the profound friendship of the people for the Chinese people moved me deeply.

During my four-nation tour, I met with presidents and held sincere and friendly talks with foreign ministers. We exchanged views on international issues of mutual concern and on how we might further develop bilateral relations. I also had opportunities to make wide contacts with political figures, businessmen and the press of these countries.

During the tour China and Mexico signed an agreement on the establishment of consulates. I discussed with the Venezuelan foreign minister on how to further develop bilateral economic and cultural co-operation, signed a cultural co-operation agreement with Argentina, and initialed an accord with the Brazilian foreign minister on the peaceful use of nuclear energy and exchanged notes with him on the establishment of consulates in Sao Paulo and Shanghai.

The visit's goals were attained — to promote mutual understanding, strengthen friendship and increase co-operation. I believe it will help advance the relations be-



tween China and the four countries.

Q: How do you see the prospect for Sino-Latin American relations?

A: I realized from the trip that there exists a great potential for increased exchanges and co-operation between China and Latin American countries in political, economic, trade, scientific and technological fields.

Like China, the four countries I visited are all developing nations and are making tremendous efforts to preserve their state sovereignty and boost their national economy; they all hope to have a peaceful international environment. We hold identical or similar views on the current international situation and on some major global issues. We all intend to further strengthen bilateral relations. With a vast land, an abundance of natural resources and produce and a fairly developed economy, Latin America can offer many examples for us Chinese to learn from.

As our contacts increase and mutual understanding deepens, I believe exchanges and co-operation between China and Latin American countries will, on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, move up to a new level.

Q: People everywhere are talking about how the Latin American debt problem will affect that region and the whole world. How do you size up the situation? In your opinion, what's the best way to resolve the problem?

A: The debt problem is one that has caused much concern in Latin America. The four countries I visited are the major Latin American debtors, and, naturally, they are particularly concerned with the problem.

True, the problem is an important issue in the current North-South relations. If not properly settled, it will change from an economic problem to a political issue. Many complex factors are involved, but the United States' high interest rate policy and the trade protectionism followed by it and some other developed countries are an important cause for its deterioration.

The four countries I visited all have taken a responsible attitude towards the debt problem and are negotiating for a solution. I hope creditor nations, commercial banks and international financial organizations will follow a wise and far-sighted policy, give serious consideration to the requests made by the Latin American debtor nations, and work with the latter to find a reasonable solution to the problem. I believe Latin American countries will overcome this tem-

porary difficulty and continue their march along the road of independence.

Q: The turbulent situation in Central America is causing concern in the world. What's your impression of the problem? Some say the root cause for the region's restlessness is in the region itself, while others say it results from outside intervention. What are your views? And how would you evaluate the efforts by the Contadora Group to settle the Central American problem?

A: My impression from the trip is that Latin American countries are very concerned with the situation in Central America. Our view is that the internal cause for Central American turbulence is the region's long-standing irrational social and economic systems; people there are dissatisfied with the current state of affairs and demand a reform. But outside interference has aggravated the turbulent situation in the region.

The only way to alleviate the situation is to fully satisfy the

population's reasonable demands for social progress, political democracy and economic development, and to stop all outside interference so that the Central American people may decide their own affairs.

On many occasions during my tour I stated that the Chinese Government and people appreciate the Contadora Group's proposition on the settlement of Central American problems and firmly support its efforts as well as those by other Latin American countries to seek a peaceful solution. □

China-US Ties Began 200 Years Ago

— Notes on the Bicentennial of the Maiden China Voyage of the American "Empress of China"

by **WANG YIQUAN**
Our Correspondent

THE United States in her early days saw "confusion and disension within herself, no resources, no money, no commerce, no friends. The wonder is that she survived at all. What saved her?"

Agnes Danforth Hewes answered that question posed in her book *Two Oceans to Canton*: the young United States made do on "her indomitable will" and "the Chinese trade!"

The Chinese trade first came in the form of the *Empress of China*, a privateer ship that had participated in the just-completed American Revolution. On February 22, 1784, soon after the United States won independence from Britain's colonial grip, the *Empress of China* departed from New York as the first US trading ship to China. The American ship went south round the Cape of Good Hope, crossed the Indian Ocean, and, after 188 days of hardship, arrived in Guangzhou, China, on August 28.

The Chinese People's Association for Friendship With Foreign Countries marked the 200th an-

niversary of the US ship's arrival in China at a Beijing meeting August 28.

Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang, in a message of congratulations read at the meeting, said, "This historic voyage opened up the trade relations between China and the United States and promoted contacts and exchanges between the peoples of the two countries."

When the *Empress of China*, loaded with 13,644 *liang* silver worth of ginseng, animal hides, lead, pepper and camlet entered Guangzhou (Canton) waters to anchor at Huangpu (Whampoa), she received a warm welcome from the Chinese. And the return voyage triggered excitement in the United States when the ship landed in New York on May 12, 1785, loaded with tea, chinaware, silk, cloth and cassia, a cargo with a total value of 71,767 *liang* of silver.

From New England down to Virginia, leading newspapers presented glowing accounts of the vessel's voyage. A "China trade fever" raged across the country.

As Mrs. Hewes recounted in her book, "Every little village on every little creek with a sloop that

could hold five Yankees was planning an expedition to Canton."

In fact, the years between 1784-1800 saw 118 ships travel between China and the United States. Sino-US trade grew rapidly, along with increased understanding and growing relations between the two countries.

Just as the *Empress of China* had run across bad weather and stormy seas, Sino-US relations gyrated through ups and downs over the past 200 years. But thanks to the joint efforts of the peoples of the two countries, the memory of friendly dialogue between the two nations has not been forgotten.

Wang Bingnan, President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship With Foreign Countries, speaking at the bicentennial put the relations in perspective: "It is true that there were confrontations and conflicts in the 200 years of Sino-American relations. However, generally speaking, there have been long periods of friendly relations and contacts between the two countries. In the early 1940s, we became allies in the war against ag-

(Continued on p. 20.)



1949-1984

ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

China's Burgeoning Oil Industry

by SHI YAN

CHINA, once thought to be an oil-poor country, has made rapid progress over the past 35 years, until it is now able to provide itself with a full range of petroleum products and has become a crude oil exporter.

China actually has been tapping its oil and natural gas for a long time. According to historical records, as far back as 2,000 years ago the Chinese people had discovered oil and gas in Shaanxi, Sichuan, Gansu and other provinces. They were widely used to boil brine to extract salt and for lighting, lubrication, medicine and warfare.

A shallow field of rock layers with gas trapped between was tapped in Sichuan Province in the 13th century — one of the first natural gas fields in the world. But it wasn't until the late 19th century that the modern oil industry began to develop in China. The first modern wells were found in the 1930s at the Laojunmiao Oilfield in Yumen, Gansu Province.

In 1949 when the People's Republic was founded, there were only three oilfields — the Laojunmiao Oilfield, the Dushanzi Oilfield in Xinjiang and the Yanchang Oilfield in Shaanxi — two gas fields — the Shengdengshan and Shiyougou Gas Field in Sichuan — and two small shale oil refineries in all of China. About 70,000 tons of crude oil and 50,000 tons of re-

finied oil were produced a year. It was on this weak foundation that New China built its oil industry.

Soon after 1949, a large number of outstanding cadres from the People's Liberation Army were sent to the oilfields to organize and lead the workers to build up and expand China's oilfields. By 1952 when rehabilitation of the national economy was over, the output of crude oil had reached 435,000 tons, up 3.6 times over 1949, or 1.3 times old China's highest annual output.

Soon after, exploration of the Gobi Desert in northwestern China began, and new oilfields were opened in Xinjiang's Karamay and Qinghai's Lenghu Lake and Yumenyaer Valley. Sichuan's gas fields were also expanded. In 1957

China produced 1.46 million tons of crude oil and 70 million cubic metres of natural gas.

The Battle for Daqing

In the late 1950s a group of new oil and gas fields were discovered as a result of regional exploration in several basins in northeastern, northern and southwestern China. The most encouraging was a test well opened in September 1959 in the Songliao Basin, northeast China.

In February 1960 it was decided to develop the oil in the region around the test well, and the battle for oil at Daqing began. Concentrating labour and materials from 37 oil refineries, oilfields and institutes, the size of the deposit was verified in one year and China's

No. 32654 Team of the Karamay Oilfield, China's first team to break through 10,000 metres last year, at work.



The author is a staff member of the Policy Research Office in the Ministry of Petroleum Industry.

September 10, 1984

biggest oil base was established in three.

Meanwhile, in 1963 China's crude oil output topped 6.48 million tons, making the country almost self-sufficient.

The success of the battle for oil at Daqing not only increased China's oil output by a wide margin, guaranteeing that it would never have to rely on foreign oil, but also verified the theory that large quantities of oil can be found in the continental face strata. These achievements, from both practical and theoretical viewpoints, banished for ever the idea that China was poor in oil and opened wide prospects for future oil exploration.

Rapid Development

Beginning in 1964, China's oil workers drove their way down to the Bohai Sea, surveying over more than 900,000 square kilometres. They opened the Shengli and Daqing Oilfields, and in 1965 China's output of crude oil topped 10 million tons. It now had enough oil



Computers processing seismic data in the Daqing Oilfield.

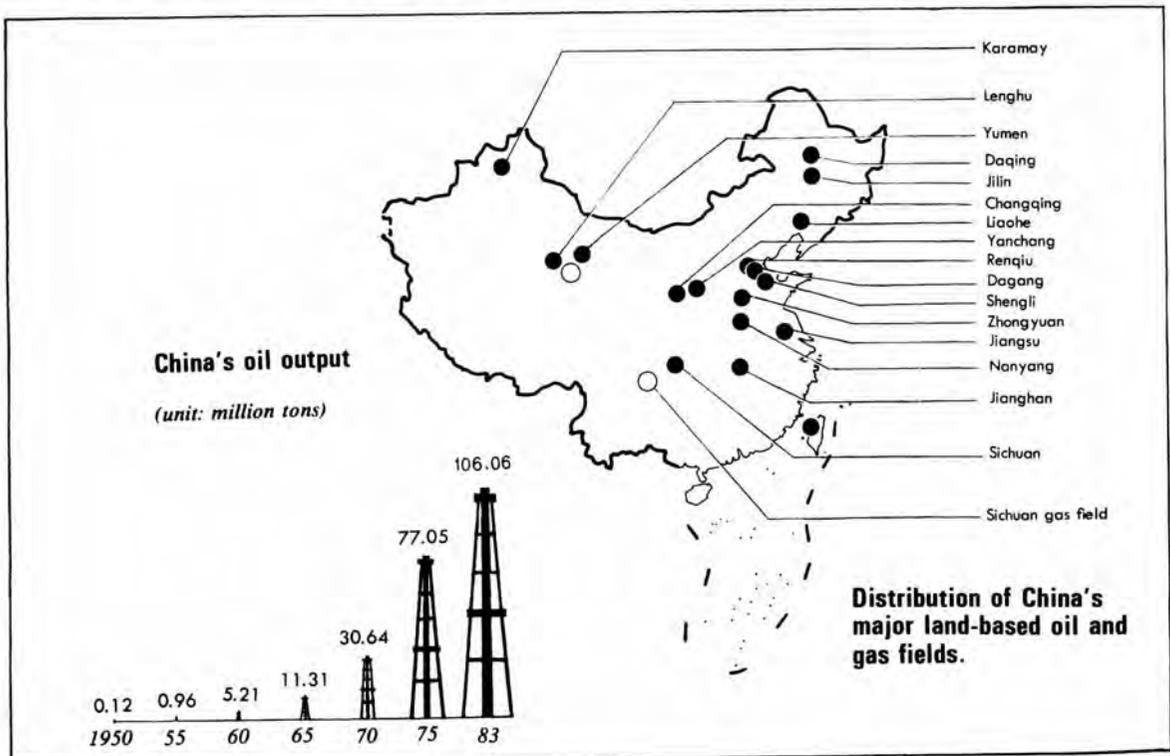
of all grades to completely meet its needs.

Later the Liaohe, North China and Zhongyuan (central plain) Oilfields were discovered. Since then, oil bases have moved to the eastern areas, where the economy is well developed, while oil production continues to expand.

During the 10 years of the "cultural revolution," despite production decreases in many other industries, crude oil output continu-

ed to go up. This was due to the efforts of the cadres and oil workers who, in order to ensure the state's demand for energy, remained at their posts despite periodic disruptions. By 1976, China's output of crude oil rose dramatically to 87.15 million tons, playing a great role in sustaining the economy, which was then on the brink of collapse.

Since then, oil production has continued to increase. Crude oil





The newly built Chiwan Village on the Chiwan oil base in Guangdong Province.

output topped the 100 million ton mark in 1978, making China one of the world's major oil producers.

Readjustment Brings Results

From 1979 China began readjusting its national economy, and the oil industry has made some readjustments in its work as well. These include appropriately controlling the production target for crude oil while keeping the annual output at 100 million tons, and concentrating on exploration to increase the reserve deposits. Five years of efforts have brought about gratifying results.

In recent years many new deposits of oil and natural gas have been discovered by using sensitive digital seismic equipment to study the arrangement of rock layers. Breakthroughs were made in the exploration of composite fields (a thick deposit divided into two or more layers) in the east and overthrust zones (where a fault is formed when the upper rock wall slides over the lower wall) in the west, greatly increasing verified deposits. Between 1981 and 1983 China had 1.06 billion tons of verified deposits, of which 570 million tons were discovered in 1983 alone.

September 10, 1984

With more areas being explored, 30 oil- and gas-bearing underground structures have been found throughout the country, and industrial oil flow (oil that bears industrial value and is worth exploiting) has been found in many of these areas.

Recent explorations have proved that fault or depression basins in eastern China all contain rich composite pools or traps. These not only contain natural structures which trap oil, but all sorts of complicated non-structural fields (covered traps formed by the changes of the layers) and buried hill traps (traps formed by hills that have been buried underground for hundreds of millions of years) formed

by bedrock. In the overthrust zones in the west, oil and gas can also be found over a large area. This advance in geophysical theory will greatly benefit the exploration of new traps of oil and gas.

China's crude oil production has been rising steadily. This is largely due to readjustments at the old oilfields, better drilling techniques, the developing of mechanized drilling and more efficient underground operations.

Since the beginning of this year, the national daily output of crude oil has remained above 300,000 tons, and the year's output is expected to reach 110 million tons.

As China has strengthened its scientific research work in recent years, a number of technical production problems have been solved. At the same time, more advanced technology and key pieces of equipment have been introduced through economic co-operation and technological exchanges with foreign countries. Now the level of China's seismic exploration technology matches the 1970s level of the West. Drilling technology and equipment manufacturing has vastly improved in the last few years, and techniques for extracting oil with a high water content have also been further developed.

All these advances make it pos-

The Nanhai No. 1 and No. 4 drilling platforms operating offshore in the Beibu Gulf.



sible to explore more complicated underground deposits.

Joint Ventures Offshore

By the end of 1983, China had signed 23 contracts to jointly explore offshore oil with 31 firms from nine countries. In the last few years 11 oil-bearing formations have been found in the Sino-Japanese and Sino-French contract areas in the Bohai Sea and the Beibu Gulf. In the Sino-US contract area in the Yinggehai Sea area a rich natural gas deposit has been found, and in the Zhujiang (Pearl) River estuary a number of foreign companies have begun exploration.

Bright Prospects

A few years ago, some foreigners speculated that China's oil output would gradually decrease and eventually it would change into an oil importing nation. But facts have proved otherwise. Instead, the output of crude oil has been

increasing every year. China's oil industry is still moving forward.

The majority of observers have come to view the bright prospects with optimism. At present, the Chinese oil workers are working hard to keep the output growing and to push their country to the top of the world's major oil-producing countries by the end of this century.

Exploration will continue to expand, in order to increase verified deposits so that development can be ensured of adequate reserves. In the near future, China will do its best to verify new areas rich in oil and gas in an effort to double its land-based reserves within seven years.

Oilfield exploitation will follow the principle of high output, speed, and economic efficiency and the guideline for higher output from fewer wells, replacement by more wells and continuous development will be put into practice.

A number of areas with output potential will be chosen for quick exploitation in the near future so as to increase the output of crude oil as soon as possible. Great efforts will be made to keep the annual output growth rate at 5 per cent in the coming seven years.

In order to fulfil these ambitious plans, China has decided to vigorously reform the oil industry's management system, so as to produce more with less investment. It will work hard to transform and upgrade technology, and popularize the existing advanced technologies so that they can aid production as quickly as possible. Key research projects urgently needed in production will be organized, bringing results within a fixed period of time. China will import key technologies and equipment difficult to provide at home, gradually shifting oil production on to a higher technological plane. □

(Continued from p. 16.)

gression waged by the Japanese militarists and jointly won it. Particularly, there have all along been traditional, friendly ties and sentiments between the two peoples."

The contacts and communications between China and the United States first bridged by the *Empress of China* have made great headway. Relations are no longer limited to trade, but have expanded to a broad range of exchanges, covering politics, culture, and science and technology. Since the thaw of Sino-US relations in 1972, contacts between the two nations increase day by day. Following the restoration of diplomatic ties, individuals and delegations from both countries have visited each other more and more frequently. These, especially the exchange visits of Premier Zhao Ziyang and President Ronald Reagan, greatly improved the two-way ties.

At present, the drive for the modernization of China is in full swing. China continues to pursue the policy of opening its door to the outside world. Measures have been taken and laws passed to encourage foreign investments. All the facts point to a bright future for Sino-US relations.

The American people are also making efforts to build relations with China on a basis of better mutual understanding. As the Asian-Pacific region develops economically, the US had turned increasingly to this area. China, due to its vast territory and abundant resources, is at the forefront of the development boom. More and more American people realize that to develop Sino-US relations is not only beneficial to the peoples of the two countries, but helpful to the maintenance of Asian-Pacific stability and world peace.

The vessel of Sino-US relations has entered new historic waters. The future is bright if not for the fact that, owing to historic causes or man-made prejudices, there are still obstacles blocking the way ahead. Economically, restrictive American trade policies, limits on technological transfer and tariffs and quota restrictions could cause trouble. In the political realm, the old major block of the Taiwan issue still hangs above relations like the sword of Damocles. The Chinese people hope that the American people will join hands with them to remove the blocks.

As Premier Zhao noted in his message on the bicentennial of the *Empress of China* voyage, "Today, the Chinese and American peoples are carrying on their friendly exchanges under new circumstances. It is my hope that such exchanges will benefit our two peoples and be conducive to world peace."

What China Was and Is



by REWI ALLEY

TO look back on what China was is a somewhat painful business. It was a China where rank and position simply meant an opportunity to build up a personal fortune. Where even the highest officials would pocket loans whole from abroad, and then issue worthless script to cover their crimes. It was a China where opium runners multiplied like rats in the cities, where gangsters offered to murder someone for as little as 20 cents.

It was Shanghai, where the very wealthy lived in great houses sur-

* Born in New Zealand in 1898, Rewi Alley is a noted writer and poet in China. An old friend of the Chinese people and an honorary citizen of Beijing, he arrived in China in 1927 and lived in Shanghai until 1938, where he met Soong Ching Ling and Edgar Snow, an American journalist and friend of China. In 1938 he took part in "Gung Ho" movement for industrial co-operatives, travelling through counties and towns in the northwest and south. Since 1949, apart from 34 works about China, he has published 18 collections of poetry and translated 11 books of poems.

rounded by guards, and where a frightened middle class of professionals, teachers and students smoldered with discontent. Where the baton of the policemen fell on the backs of those who pulled their carts across the Garden Bridge. And where young people and children were exploited in a kind of industrial hell, herded by an enslaving contract system to become chattel for their gangster overseers.

It was a China coast strangled by foreign monopolies, and a rural China torn by continuous civil war, crushed by landlords and beset by famine. The refugees streaming into the cities took up the places of those who had been worked to death in the factories and mills.

In 1929 I spent my summer holidays working on an irrigation project in Inner Mongolia, being dug by 40,000 famine refugees. Between 1926 and 1929 some 8 million people in northwest China starved to death.

At the time of the great Chang-jiang (Yangtze) River flood in 1931, one million or more people died and there was widespread suffering. During the months I spent on dyke reconstruction, dead babies floating in the backwaters were an all too common sight. I compare this memory with that of the 1954 flood, which was even bigger. But thanks to vigorous organized efforts, there was little loss of life.

Between 1927 and 1937 China was a place where about 30,000 people accused of being Communists were killed just in and around Shanghai. Even more were

executed at Yuhuatai, a small hill outside Nanjing. On the Longhai Railway in the 40s, armed special agents killed people as they pleased. During the reign of the mad Sheng Shicai of Xinjiang, suspected Communists were routinely killed at border stations. And Ma Bufang, the Kuomintang governor of Gansu, sent his soldiers to wipe out all the students and teachers at the Sandan school, where I then worked. Only the rapid advance of the People's Liberation Army saved us, just in the nick of time.

In the early 40s the Kuomintang conscripted a new army to support the governor of Xinjiang, who had come over to their side. The commander of this army stayed with his wives and his money in Chengdu and sent the conscripts, mostly boys from around Santai, through Sichuan, Shaanxi and Gansu to Xinjiang.

From the commander on down, all the officers wanted to profit from the army. So the soldiers, many of them little more than children, were half starved, often sick with dysentery and rotten with scabies. They were a truly tragic sight as they shuffled along the highways. When I saw them in Shuangshipu, 83 soldiers died in one night. I saw them again at Jiangluozhen, and the scene so impressed itself on my mind that many years later I retold it in some lines:

Despite the years, some memories remain crystal clear: 1942

a column of peasant boy conscripts from Sichuan, being driven up highways

towards Xinjiang, most dying of sickness
and malnutrition on the way; we had
halted by a Gansu village amongst the hills
for truck repair, and stood by the wayside
watching the driver of an empty truck
doing some side business with a local; then
out of a tumble-down temple emerged the small
figure of a boy perhaps fourteen, going
to the driver, politely saluting, saying
"I am in command of these sick soldiers,"
waving his arm to half a dozen gaunt,
wide-eyed child soldiers behind him.
"I have to get them to Tianshui, where
the main body is. Your truck is empty, will
you take us?" Said the driver, "Who will pay?
Where is your money?" and the boy looked
back at his sick fellows, and then at the
driver in disgust and contempt, spitting out
the word "Money!" You must have "Money!" And the barb struck home,
the driver's shoulders slumped, his head dropped,
and abruptly he turned, jumped into his cab
and drove off, leaving the figure of the boy
commander, standing in the middle of the highway
brushing tears from his eyes.

A mere handful of this army, only about 600 lads, did eventually reach Xinjiang. They were still in

Sichuan summer uniforms. The money for padded clothing did not come, and all died of cold in the sub-zero nights.

Their story was common enough at that time. Brutalized people themselves became brutal to the inhabitants of the villages they passed through. The same scene was enacted too many times in too many places.

The ruling classes had lost all contact with the people, who, in turn, shut themselves off from everything which was not their immediate concern. But the poorer they were, the harder this was. After liberation came, an old potter spoke at an accusation meeting in Gansu. Though his eyes were dull, his voice was strong and vibrant as he told of how in the old society officials would take pretty girls to make a mattress of flesh; take people's animals and fine them for losing them; take their livelihood and independence, then laugh at them; take their sons, beat them, and drive them away to armies from which they never returned. The officials took everything and gave nothing but heartache and bitterness, so that folk would look for opium or some other drug to

dream up the happiness their society denied them.

His simple account could have been multiplied 10,000 times, so accurately did it tell the story of the alienation people felt from the Kuomintang government. As the War of Resistance deepened, it was the people's armies that carried the brunt of the fight. The Kuomintang concentrated on foreign trained, foreign equipped armies, avoiding battle so they could be reserved to fight the Communists, but in the end having to beat a retreat to the island of Taiwan.

In a world where the drug traffic has now assumed immense proportions, China has not forgotten its bitter experience in the two Opium Wars, fought to preserve foreign rights to poison the Chinese people with this drug. Its widespread use was encouraged by foreign imperialists, and then by warlord armies, crazy to seize control of everything which brought in revenue.

Yet the two great devastating social blights, drug addiction and venereal disease, were swept away by the clean wind of liberation. And with food and clothing no

Before liberation the Huanghe (Yellow) River flooded through part of Henan Province.



longer a problem, with medical care easily available, life for the poor has taken on new meaning. Surely in many rural areas much is still lacking. But looking at the little county town in Gansu where I spent almost a decade, it's hard to believe that I once thought it the poorest county I had seen in my China travels. Now it is beginning to be a bright, modern city, with forward-looking people and many plans for advancement.

The decadence of the old brought men to organize their fellows and throw them against entrenched privilege. The development of this spirit of struggle and sacrifice has been responsible for much. It was a spirit that burst into flame in the Guangzhou Commune, and enabled the armies around Ruijin to withstand the power of the modernized, German-advised armies of Chiang Kai-shek. It was the spirit Mao Zedong relied on as he led the Long March from Zunyi to Yanan. The spirit that enabled Peng Dehuai to fight so gallantly in Shanxi and Hebei that the Japanese had to hold their forces in northern China, and could not mount a southern drive. The spirit that brought an army of farming people with their carts and wheelbarrows to provide logistical support for the Liberation Army that swept south and over the Changjiang (Yangtze) River to victory.

It was the spirit that enabled so many irrigation systems to be built all through China, making possible the huge increases in grain production the nation had to have. The spirit that fired Wang Jinxi and his comrades when they opened up the Daqing Oilfields. The spirit that drives the good doctor, the teacher, the scientist as they give their all for their work. The spirit that makes the young people ask, "How much can I give to the people of our land, so that things will be better for them?" The spirit that enables people to look



A newly built highway bridge over the lower Huanghe (Yellow) River.

farther afield, like the Canadian Bethune and the Indian Kotnis, who gave their lives to the cause they believed to be the cause of working people everywhere.

One of the major differences between the old China and the new is in the treatment of minority peoples, so many of whom live along China's borders. Before liberation the stigma of belonging to an inferior group had official backing, and these people were often cheated by money-grabbing traders. On its Long March, the old Red Army attracted many of the young minority people to its ranks, and after liberation immediate steps were taken to make the minority people feel part of the whole.

When the gang of four was in power there were considerable setbacks, for their policy was to destroy religion and insist all minorities be just the same as the Han majority, despite their different historical background. After 1976, however, new policies granted religious freedom. Mosques and Lama temples that had suffered were rebuilt. Governments in autonomous areas were strengthened with local minority cadres.

Today, the vice-president of China is Ulanhu, a Mongolian. Ngapoi and the Bainqen Lama,

who are Tibetans, hold high positions in the National People's Congress, as does Wei Guoqing, a Zhuang from Guangxi, and Seypidin from Xinjiang.

The education under the old order was very limited. There were famous universities and the middle schools which served them, but only the children of the rich or well-to-do families could afford to attend. Teachers in most ordinary schools suffered from lack of teaching materials, salary delays, and sometimes no salary at all. The standard of education was low, and, at times in the countryside, non-existent. Illiteracy was high.

At the beginning of the War of Resistance, when we were setting up the self-reliant Gung Ho movement, I asked if I might interview some unemployed technicians. The first who came said he had taught textiles at Anhui University. I said, "Fine. You will be able to help the people in Shaanxi with their textile programme." Very nervously, he replied that he couldn't, as he had no practical experience. He had never seen a textile mill. He was simply teaching from a textbook!

The next one said he was an electrical engineer graduated from Zhongshan University in Guang-

zhou. I said, "The very man we want. There are a number of loudspeaker sets in Ouchikou, down the Changjiang (Yangtze) River used for broadcasting to the Japanese army. They need proper wiring and installation on trucks." But he replied that he had learnt about such things in his first year at college, and had now forgotten. At which point I gave up.

Today, the spread of television and radio, the increasing farm incomes and the better trained teachers with more modern textbooks bring country kids to the beginnings of a scientific viewpoint, anxious to learn more. There is a continual struggle throughout the country to train the young people so they can meet the demands of modernization.

To one aware of the peril of erosion, the increasing deforestation that took place in the old society was disturbing indeed. It had to await the dynamism of the present leadership to see any great change in that process. But very much more will have to be done before the rivers begin to run clean again and the scouring away of precious land resources is completely halted.

In transportation, progress has been enormous. When I left Sandan in 1950 to come to Beijing, the journey took more than a month, including stops for truck repair. Now railways have spread right into west Gansu, Qinghai and Xinjiang, and trunk lines connect up.

In the old China people thought the Changjiang (Yangtze) River was impossible to bridge. The first bridge over it at Wuhan was hailed as a national triumph in the post-liberation years. The huge bridge at Nanjing was next, and now there are several others.

In pre-liberation times, electric power was confined to major cities. When I went to Ganzhou County (present-day Ganzhou

City) in Jiangxi in 1938, the local gentry offered me a power station for a few cents a catty, if I would have it cut up and taken away. They could not afford to operate it, because the Kuomintang army people would steal power and not pay for it. The plant became a burden to its owners. After liberation an efficient hydroelectric plant was set up at nearby Shangyou, and power for the many new industrial plants became no problem.

For many years only poor crops of sorghum could be harvested from lands along the coast in northern Hebei. After liberation the Yanghe Dam was completed, enabling peasants to grow rice on 20,000 hectares of land, harvesting 7,500 kilogrammes per hectare. A paper factory converted the rice straw to paper, and another problem was solved. All over China liberation brought results like these.

In feudal times there were charm coins minted with the words "five

sons and two daughters," as the model family to strive for. Wars and famines struck savagely at children in those bad old days, and after liberation there was a baby boom, with big families everywhere. It soon became evident that unless something was done, there would not be enough food to go around.

So entered the period of birth control and planning to ensure that the population at the end of the century would be manageable. A Chinese family looks to its children for many things: support in old age, the thrill of embracing grandchildren, and possibly great grandchildren. So it has meant considerable sacrifice to give up long-cherished ideas. Yet, on the whole, the movement for birth control has been a success. In the cities, with both parents working, one child is enough. But in the countryside it is rather a different story. There the problem has to be very carefully explained, and acceptance of the policies secured.

Rewi Alley talks with PLA engineering corps leaders at the large hydroelectric power station in northern China.



China, with the world's oldest continuous civilization, has a wealth of archaeological material, squandered recklessly in the old society. Grave robbers kept curiosity shops supplied, and the shops were free to sell as they wished. The historical value of many pieces was lost, because no one knew where they had been found and few could properly evaluate them. In the store rooms of many a museum lie artifacts about which nothing is known.

Fortunately, however, there remains a wealth of undiscovered material, which is now being carefully excavated and preserved. The terra cotta army of horsemen and

warriors at the tomb of Qin Shi Huang near Xian has become one of the most visited archaeological sites in the world.

To write on the old and the new in China is not an easy task. As I think of the old, 10,000 memories surge up in my mind. Of the many who fought for change, and gave their lives for it gladly. Of the bitterness and denial, then of the greatness of those who kept on with the struggle. The patient and wonderful old mothers, the ordinary folk of the villages.

Then to fully paint the new over so vast a canvas, what a task that would be! From Heilongjiang to

Hainan, from Kashgar to Shanghai, such a wealth of people, so great a change. The epic of growing from nothing into something. The extension of coal mining, so that China will probably become the greatest exporter of coal in the world, makes me think back on the "ants," naked little boys with an oil lamp strapped on their heads, who pioneered in the mines.

I read the often naive, sometimes insulting reports of so-called China experts, marvelling at their blindness as they cook up the pap a self-satisfied readership will lap up because it gives them such a feeling of superiority. And then I think of China. □

A Look Down the Road to Reform

by **LU YUN**
Our Special Correspondent

REFORM is an inevitable trend in China today. This was a unanimous view at a symposium on reforms held in May in Hefei, capital of Anhui Province.

Sponsored by nine noted champions of reforms from Anhui, Shanghai, Zhejiang and Beijing, the meeting was attended by 600 people from 26 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions throughout the country. Many of the participants were factory directors, managers, rural workers, natural and social scientists and educators, who are also the trailblazers of reforms on various fronts.

The participants discussed the new situation and problems emerging as a result of newly implemented reforms both in the countryside, where fruitful results have already been achieved, and in the urban areas, where the re-

form movement is steadily gaining momentum.

Chen Tingyuan, first secretary of Anhui Province's Fengyang County Party committee and one of the sponsors of the meeting, was among the earliest initiators of the rural responsibility system. He said, "Some rules and regulations formulated under the guidance of 'Left' thinking are still binding many people's hands and feet. These people are accustomed to established practices, which has laid obstacles to reforms."

In 1979 when Chen began to introduce the household contract responsibility system, he incurred numerous censures as the new practice had broken through the set pattern of the three-level ownership by the people's commune, the production brigade and the production team, with the production team as the basic accounting unit. "To carry out reforms is not at all easy," Chen said. Those who are used to old ways, those who feel most comfortable "eating from the

same big public pot" and those who only care for the interests of their own units and neglect the interests of the whole, will place all sorts of obstacles in the way of the reforms. "This being the case," Chen added, "we must not only be brave in reform but also be adept at it."

Wang Zepu, Director of the Seamless Tube Plant of the Anshan Iron and Steel Complex, said that he had been constantly warned that in China's history no reformers came to a good end. "But, these people fail to see the difference between today and the days under feudal rule," he continued. In those old days the reformers were often cruelly suppressed by the feudal rulers. Today's reform, however, is initiated by the Party and the government, and Deng Xiaoping is the chief mover. The Party Central Committee allows people to make mistakes in reform, but it does not allow people to obstruct the reforms. "Although the road

of reform is rough and bumpy, the trend is irresistible," Wang concluded.

Wen Yuankai, an associate professor at the China University of Science and Technology and initiator of the meeting, pointed out that the obstruction to the reform first comes from the force of habit, such as following the doctrine of the mean, sticking to conventions and disagreeing with new things. Therefore, he proposed that during the reform, attention should also be paid to changing people's traditional ways of thinking. "The fate of the reform depends, to a large extent, on the determination and action of the leadership," Professor Wen stressed.

The participants also discussed reform of the leading bodies and the personnel system in enterprises.

Huang Xinchuan, Director of the Hangzhou Limin Pharmaceutical Plant, said, "The past system of leadership stipulated that the Party committee secretary and the director of an enterprise are its chief Party and administrative leaders. This meant that in practice the enterprise had two sources of leadership, which resulted in disunity and disharmony in much of its work and lowering its work efficiency. Under this system, it is common that when a problem occurs, nobody will be held responsible, since decisions are made collectively by the Party committee. Therein lies the crux of the problem faced by enterprises." He agreed to practise a system under which a director assumes full responsibility.

Liang Xian, a participant from the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone, said that all the joint ventures and exclusive foreign enterprises in the Shekou industrial district practise a system whereby a director or a manager takes full responsibility under the supervision of the board of directors.

The 13 companies directly affiliated to the Shekou district practise the manager's responsibility system under the leadership of the district's management committee. The management committee does not interfere in the production and management of the exclusive foreign enterprises, joint ventures and co-operative enterprises. These enterprises enjoy full power to make their own decisions, and their managers or directors assume full responsibility for the production and management of the enterprises. This practice helps ensure, in terms of the management system, that the enterprises operate in line with economic laws, thus promoting the development of the enterprises.

The district has also abolished the practice of lifetime tenure for the leading cadres, in favour of the principle of appointing cadres in accordance with their ability. All the major units have replaced the appointment system with a one-year-contract system. Those who prove to be competent can have their contracts renewed or be promoted. The incompetent ones will be dismissed or disengaged. As for the employment system, the industrial district has abolished the "iron rice bowl"

system. The enterprises have the right to choose their employees and to punish or fire those who have seriously violated the codes of work discipline.

The Electronics Research Institute in Zhuzhou, Hunan Province, is also practising a contract system. "When the scientific and technical personnel accept a new task, the institute issues a letter of appointment to them," explained Cao Dingxin, director of the institute. The group can also choose the workers and auxiliary staff it needs and sign contracts with them. When the task is completed, the letters of appointment and the contracts expire automatically.

The scientific and technical personnel and workers who are not assigned contracts will be organized into study groups or given other jobs. In the first year they will still get their basic wages but no bonuses. Beginning from the second year, if still not assigned contracts, they will be paid 80 per cent of their original wages. Those who refuse the work assigned to them will only get allowances instead of wages (i.e. less than 80 per cent) and those who refuse to change their mind despite repeated admonition

The symposium on economic reform in session.



will be fired. A contract system has also been introduced among the administrative workers.

Another question of common interest is the reform of the current system of training and using competent people.

Deng Xuchu, Secretary of the Party committee of the Shanghai Jiaotong University, said that the investment China made in education and the efforts China pooled to develop intellectual resources all lag far behind the needs of its technical revolution and the need for reform of its economic systems. China's science, technology and education are 20 years behind those of the developed countries, and the number of its scientific and technical personnel is limited. Of every 10,000 people in China, only a few more than 10 have received university education, while in the developed countries the number is more than 100, the highest being over 500. "Given this," Deng added, "we mustn't begrudge money spent on education." He suggested using economic means to develop education.

He also broached the problem of the waste of technical personnel. In the present economy planning all professional and technical training is provided free of charge by the state. This tends to result in a serious underutilization or even waste of technical personnel by the enterprises.

On the question of using intellectuals, Deng pointed out that "Left" thinking has not been completely eliminated. Cases of discrimination against intellectuals still occur frequently and the problem of intellectuals not using their acquired knowledge is still quite serious. Today, a large proportion of the trained personnel and experts, including 50 per cent of China's whole scientific research force, is concentrated in



Bu Xinsheng (left), Director of the Haiyan Shirt and Blouse Factory, and Chen Tingyuan, Party secretary of Fengyang County in Anhui Province, meet at the symposium.

the institutes of higher learning, where the potential of the people is unfortunately not being fully exploited.

Hu Enliang, Director of the Institute of Universal Machinery under the Ministry of Machine-Building Industry, said that trained personnel is the most serious area of wastage. A poll within a section in the institute showed that 70 per cent of its scientists and technicians felt that their initiative was not fully mobilized. This stemmed mainly from the improper use of these people. He wished the scientific research units would allow their employees to be transferred to other units. He also suggested that these units practise a contract system so as to break the monopoly of personnel by certain units and solve the problem of the inappropriate use of trained personnel.

At a discussion about education in the rural areas, Li Fengzheng, deputy Party secretary of Daqiu-zhuang Village in Jinghai County, Tianjin Municipality, said that as the state is still short of finance, the masses' enthusiasm should be mobilized to build schools. With the help of the Tianjin Polytech-

nic College, the villagers of Daqiu-zhuang have set up a branch college there this year. They also plan to build a secondary vocational school in the village next year. "The peasants are willing to spend money on educating the younger generation," Li said.

Wang Duanqing, President of the Maanshan Iron and Steel Institute, said that the problem of low pay for intellectuals has become a very prominent one in the reform of the state wage system. He stated that to give an appropriate appraisal and reward to the value of mental labour has become a decisive factor to China's social and economic development.

At the closing meeting, Professor Wen Yuankai announced, on behalf of all the participants, that a society composed of experts will be founded to study the new technological revolution and the reform of China's economic systems. The society will study further the problems discussed at the meeting with an eye to making new contributions to the search for solutions and the promotion of reforms in all fields. □

The Lives of Working Women in China

by **WU NAITAO**
Our Correspondent

BEFORE the founding of the People's Republic in 1949 China had only 600,000 women workers, accounting for 7.5 per cent of the country's workforce. Today, the number of women workers has jumped to 40.93 million, or 36.2 per cent of the country's workers. Working pre-

dominantly in the textile, light, machinery and electronic industries, they enjoy the same legal rights as their male colleagues in all fields, political, economic, educational, cultural and social, as well as in the family. They have made tremendous contributions to the country which, in turn, has shown them some special consideration.

mass production, and the proportion of women workers in departments which had few or no women at all in the past has been rising.

In the early days of the People's Republic, women took great pride in being able to do the same job as men. Consequently, a number of women engine-drivers, ship crews, drilling teams and live-wire work groups emerged.

Since 1979, however, some nationally known women's work teams have been dissolved. This is because these groups were doing work unsuitable to women's physical conditions.

The women cargo vessel team in Hunan Province's Hengyang city, for instance, was once honoured as a national "March 8th" red banner group, and was commended by the Ministry of Communications for its contributions to the country's socialist construction. However, a later investigation made by the All-

Women Workers' Committees

The All-China Federation of Trade Unions and the trade unions of various trades throughout the country each have a women workers department. Factories with more than 50 women workers have special committees, and factories with fewer than 50 have women representatives.

Qi Ping, adviser to the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, explained why women need special representation when they already enjoy equal pay for equal work and other rights. "Trade unions work for all the workers," she said, "but women workers have special problems, interests and demands. Discrimination against and maltreatment of women still exists because of the influence of several thousand years of feudal rule. Moreover, they have many special problems in their physical makeup, which makes a special organization necessary to help solve these problems and safeguard their interests."

The tasks of the women workers' committees are to give consideration to the women workers'

special needs in production, safeguard their rights and interests and encourage them to improve themselves.

Health Considerations

Since 1949, the Chinese Government has worked energetically to abolish sexism and provide women with equal chances for work. Many former housewives have since devoted themselves to social

Together with their male co-workers, women of a brigade-run wool mill in Hebei Province have earned 600,000 yuan profit for the brigade. Due to their success, the local people call them "Goddess of Wealth."



China Federation of Trade Unions found out that because there were no male workers on the team, there was no way to give the women any special consideration during menstruation, pregnancy and nursing. When a boat got stranded or the propeller was tangled by water plants, the women had to work in the water, which was not good for their health.

With the approval of the women themselves, the team was reorganized, letting their husbands work on the same boat. This not only helped reunite the husbands and wives, who had worked in different places, but also guaranteed the health of the women.

During the "cultural revolution," influenced by the "Left" thinking, the slogans "equality of men and women" and "what man can do, woman can do" were overstressed. Many women workers regarded it an honour to do jobs beyond their physical ability.

Since the "cultural revolution" came to an end in 1976, the more practical work style of the Party has been revived and local governments have drawn up regulations to protect women workers, stipulating that they must be assigned jobs suitable to their abilities.

The regulations have protective measures for women during their menstruation, pregnancy, and nursing. Women with children under one year old can take an hour off every day to feed their babies.

According to the regulations, women do not work in water or do heavy work during their menstruation. Women who are seven months pregnant may either leave work or be transferred to do light work. The paid maternity leave stipulated by the state is 56 days, and women who decide to have only one child enjoy six months of paid maternity leave.



Young workers of the Beijing Dahua Shirt Factory rehearse a chorus after work.

In addition, there are measures to protect women with jobs potentially harmful to their health and regular procedures for detecting and treating gynaecological diseases.

The regulations also stipulate that young women may not be assigned to do dangerous work or work detrimental to their health until they have children and have finished breast feeding. The women workers' committees supervise the implementation of this stipulation.

Fair Representation

Most industrial and mining enterprises in China have established workers congresses, a way for workers to participate in management. The congress regularly examines the work in an enterprise, offers criticisms and suggestions and supervises the implementation of the decisions.

Women delegates are an important component of these workers congresses. They work enthusiastically to safeguard the interests and rights of all women workers.

The Anqing Textile Mill in Anhui Province has 6,667 workers and staff members, 64 per cent of

whom are women. At the suggestion of the mill's women workers' committee, at least 60 per cent of the delegates to each workers congress must be women. Of all the delegates to the mill's third workers congress in 1981, 71 per cent were women, and at the mill's fourth workers congress in 1982 women delegates made up 70.7 per cent.

The proportional representation of women delegates has affirmed the position of women in the workers congress. These delegates, coming from different workshops and departments, have close contact with other women workers and can speak for all their sisters in the management of their enterprise.

The women delegates have played a great role in safeguarding the rights and interests of women workers. In the past, the mill gave priority to the male workers when distributing apartments. The women delegates complained about this unequal treatment. In 1981, the mill built a new residential building with 200 apartments. Some women were elected to the apartment distribution committee, and the old practice of favouring men was abolished. The result was that, apart from 113 couples



Women workers in the Haiyan Shirt and Blouse Factory admire their "Shuangyan" (Double Swallow) product line.

both working in the mill, 37 women workers were given new apartments.

Urged by the women delegates, the mill built additional showers for women and lounges for pregnant workers in five workshops where women predominate. The mill leadership agreed that no production quota would be set for the rest hour taken by the pregnant workers. The mill has also expanded its nursery.

But not all the enterprises in China are so considerate of the rights and well-being of their women workers. Some leaders favour male workers and look down upon women. They are not willing to promote women to the top grades of China's technical work scale.

In a test to decide the workers' quotas, the leaders of a glass works in Qinhuangdao found that the women worked better than their male colleagues. But, in a later pay rise, the leadership still gave priority to the men.

Unfortunately, such cases are common. This has strengthened the women delegates' determination to expand their influence and win equal consideration.

Efforts to Improve Work

The habits formed over thousands of years and the current lack of conveniences leave most women workers tied up by family chores. This adversely affects their work and study. Today, only one-third of all scientists and technicians in Chinese industry are women. Of these, very few hold senior posts.

Few women have obtained high technical grades. For instance, in the Jiamusi Dynamos Plant in Heilongjiang Province, 90 per cent of the women workers are below the fourth technical grade, and no woman has reached the seventh grade or above.

In some enterprises where women workers are concentrated, the proportion of women leaders is small. For instance, of the 286 factory cadres in the 41 units under the textile bureau of Shijiazhuang, capital of Hebei Province, only 18 are women.

This can be partly attributed to the fact that many leaders regard men as superior to women. But it is also related to the minimal accomplishments of the women themselves. An investigation made by the women workers department

under the All-China Federation of Trade Unions showed that many women workers actually have less than a primary school education. Better education for women has therefore become an important condition for further emancipating women and winning true equality. The women workers' committees at all levels have committed themselves to this task.

Some enterprises have already had some good results. The Weijian Machine-Building Plant in Harbin is a large, highly mechanized aviation factory. Of the 34 per cent of its workers who are female, 30 per cent have taken various general and technical courses and many have done better than their male colleagues. To make sure that young mothers can attend night schools, the plant's nursery has added a night shift, and dormitories are offered to women living far from the plant.

Han Fang, 42, worked as a tracer since her graduation from primary school in 1958. But after she attained a college-level education through individual study, she did design work for six big technical projects and was promoted to engineer.

The Nanjing Radio Plant has more than 2,000 women workers, or 39 per cent of the plant's workforce. So far, 90 per cent of the women have attended the technical and general study courses offered by the plant. More than 370 of them have attended full-time workers' colleges, the TV university and spare-time colleges. Five of them have been promoted to engineer for their fast progress in grasping theories and technical skills and their contributions to developing new products. Another 35 have passed examinations to be assistant engineers. The women workers' committee there encourages the others to learn from them by publicizing their achievements in the plant's newspaper and broadcasts.

At the suggestion of the women workers' committee, the plant has provided the workers with opportunities to receive further education and has made their study results an important condition for their

later promotion. Last year, more than 300 workers were honoured as outstanding students; 60 per cent of them were women.

Better education among women workers has helped increase their

technical level. In the past two years the plant's end-product workshop has held more than 10 operating contests. Each time, the women winners outnumbered the men.

Women Support Reform

The Haiyan Shirt and Blouse Factory in Zhejiang Province used to be a collectively owned processing factory on the brink of collapse. A few years ago, it initiated reforms in the relationship between production and marketing, the distribution system and the personnel system. The factory is now a thriving modern enterprise (see "Bu Xinsheng, A Bold Reformer" in our issue No. 29). How have the women workers fared in this reform?

Section Leaders

The Haiyan factory has more than 630 workers and staff members, of which 394 are women. Its director, Bu Xinsheng, is known as a champion of reform. Today, four of the factory's seven department leaders and nine of its 10 workshop leaders are women, promoted from the ranks of ordinary workers. Ambitious, educated and technically skilled, they have played an important role in the reform.

When the two heads of the cutting and sewing workshops, who were women, found that some workers were taking sick leave they didn't deserve by using connections to get doctors' notes, they reported to the director. He instituted a series of tough regulations which sharply cut the pay of those taking sick leave they didn't deserve, and factory attendance rose to more than 98 per cent.

Later, when the two women discovered the rules dealt too harshly

with those taking legitimate sick leave, they helped the director form a more flexible policy.

Wu Yongyan, the head of the quality control department, found that when bonuses began to be linked to output, some workers started neglecting the quality of their products. She proposed a plan to deduct imperfect goods from the output beyond quota when figuring a worker's bonus. After the leadership put her plan into practice, the rate of products returned for repairs dropped markedly.

Taking Responsibility

When Wu Caiying became head of the ironing workshop, discipline was lax and quality low. Some young male workers ignored her because she was female. But Wu was not concerned, and criticized the lazy workers by name at a workshop meeting. One of them was so enraged he tried to fight with Wu. She unplugged his iron and told him to leave. Later, the young man showed regret for his actions and Wu helped him return as a temporary worker.

Because the Haiyan factory puts quality and reputation above all else, 10 quality inspectors scrutinize every product. All 10 are women.

One inspector in the sewing workshop found a pocket had been sewn on a slant. When she asked the worker responsible to redo it, he said, "I have made many clothes at a training course in

Shanghai, but I've never met anyone as fussy as you are." She responded, "I don't care where you've been trained. I won't let any defective product pass."

Reaping Benefits

The women working in the factory firmly support the reforms, because they themselves benefit. The original workshop had only pedal sewing machines, and two workers shared a kerosene lamp. Now the shabby workshops have been replaced by a bright new building equipped with electric machines.

The development of production also enables the factory to give more consideration to its women workers. It has built some new apartment buildings, and both men and women can get housing, with priority set according to their contributions.

The factory has set up a nursery, and all the workers' children receive free education through senior middle school.

After giving birth, each woman worker receives a suit of clothes, a hat, a pair of shoes, an apron, a cotton-padded quilt and 20 diapers for her baby and 1.5 kilogrammes of brown sugar for herself. Those who come back to work after 56 days of maternity leave and fulfil all the production and quality requirements receive 0.60 yuan in subsidy a day.

Young mothers are asked to work six hours a day in the summer and seven in the winter, leaving them ample time to look after their babies.

A Group Leader

Like many other young people of her generation, Shang Wen went to the northeast to reclaim wasteland after she graduated from a Beijing junior middle school in 1968. After eight years of hard work, she returned home to work at the Beijing Telecommunications Equipment Plant. Now 32, she is the head of a welding group which has maintained itself as an advanced collective under her leadership.

The 12-channel carriers made by her group are the most profitable products of the plant. All the 31 members of the group, with an average age of 28, have attained the highest level in their work — no faults after welding more than 10,000 successive joins.

Shang is very strict with her group, sparing not even her close friends. Once the group was given an urgent assignment calling for very high quality work. Some workers did not want to accept it. Zhang Jianping, Shang's best friend, also said that the work was beyond her. Zhang thought that

as they were good friends, Shang should spare her the job. But Shang insisted that because they were friends, Zhang should support her. Shang explained the importance of the task. Zhang agreed to accept it and others followed suit.

Shang's friends said that although she can be hot tempered, sometimes, she is quite reasonable and they like her a lot. Later Zhang told Shang that if there was any difficulty in assigning work, she herself would stay after hours to finish it.

The group's faultless welding record is their greatest pride. Each piece they work on has 100-700 welds. Shang said, "It is easy to make no mistakes on one or two pieces. But we work eight hours a day and it is really hard to have no faults on several dozen or several hundred pieces." She initiated a drive to learn from each other in the group, which helped improve the group members' skills.

Meng Jianhua, 22, the youngest in the group, became the record

holder after she welded 100,000 perfect joins.

Although the group's product quality and work efficiency have surpassed the average level, the members never receive any extra pay. The difference between the highest and the lowest bonuses in the group is only one or two yuan. This is a manifestation of egalitarianism, which is known metaphorically in China as "everybody eating from the same big pot." It is also a target of the current reforms.

Although the workers of the group think the plant's bonus policy is unreasonable, they have never slackened their efforts to maintain high quality and high output. Shang said, "We are just not pleased with the 'big pot.' But we understand that we are not working for money, so we still do what we should."

In 1981 Shang gave birth to a son, which brought her both pleasure and trouble. Because her husband, a worker at an eyeglass company, often worked overtime, she had to do most of the family chores, including bringing her baby back and forth to the plant's nursery on her bicycle.

The child was recently transferred to a kindergarten and the task of accompanying him has been taken over by Shang's husband. Feeling that she was "emancipated" again, Shang developed a new ambition to pass the entrance examination for a spare-time college.

After a month's preparation, reading till midnight every day, she took examinations in four subjects. But only one out of every 10 candidates can be enrolled, and if Shang fails, she is determined to try again next year, as she believes the state encourages workers to study and provides them with many opportunities. She said, "I'm determined to study hard to improve myself." □

Shang Wen (right) and Zhang Jianping at work.



Tang Tricolour Pottery: Pride of China

It took a most unartistic endeavour to resurrect one of China's lost ceramic techniques — Tang tricolour pottery.

Workers building the Longhai Railway (a trunk linking China's east and west) in 1899 discovered a group of tombs at the foot of Mangshan Hill, north of Luoyang in Henan Province. Among the articles excavated were a number of coloured pottery figures which were quickly identified as examples of the long-lost Tang tricolour technique. The pottery was brought to capital Beijing, where the Chinese and foreign antique experts determined they were of great value. The antique dealers and connoisseurs flocked to Luoyang to collect the Tang pottery. Interest in the pottery sparked the revival of the technique and local craftsmen began to produce it again.

Tricolour pottery was developed in the Tang Dynasty (618-907). It is termed tricolour because green, white and yellow are the three basic glazes applied to it, although brown, blue and black were also used later.

Luoyang, where the pottery was found, was a political, economic and cultural centre next only in significance to Changan (present-day Xian), the capital. The discovery of kilns at Gongxian County, east of Luoyang, indicates it was the major centre of pottery-making during the Tang Dynasty, one of the most stable and prosperous dynasties in Chinese history. A peaceful and unified country spurred the development of the arts and crafts, and ceramics manufacture flourished in Luoyang.

A factor which contributed to the boom was the burial custom of the time. Almost everything that a ruler or noble needed while living was reproduced as a pottery miniature and buried along with him. Mangshan Hill was a cemetery for the nobles of the dynasty. Tricolour pottery was only for ornament, being too brittle for everyday use. With the decline of the Tang Dynasty, extravagant burials went out of fashion and demand for the tricolour ceramics dwindled. With the rise of the subsequent Song Dynasty, porcelain ware flourished and the production of Tang tricolour pottery died out altogether.

Chinese craftsmen grasped the technique of using lead glaze as early as the Western Han Dynasty (206 BC-24 AD). But they mastered only two colours — green and yellow; green was made from copper oxide and yellow from ferric oxide.

During the Tang Dynasty, craftsmen learnt how to make more colours, including blue made of cobalt oxide and white made of transparent glaze added to white clay.

Craftsmen did not rely on pigments alone. In baking the pottery, they took advantage of the fluidity of the glazes and made them mix with each other to create even more colours.

The use of the colour glazes not only improved on the lead glaze used during the Han Dynasty, but broke new ground for the development of multi-coloured ceramics. The discovery of cobalt, for instance, paved the way for blue and white porcelain during the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368).

An interesting feature of Tang tricolour pottery is that the lively shapes demanded the talents of a craftsman who was both a sculptor and a ceramist.

Camels of Tang tricolour pottery.



An example is a 127-cm-tall warrior. To portray such a man as full of valour and strength, the craftsman sculpted the muscles on his cheeks and arms finely. Even areas above the eyebrows and at the sides of the nostrils and jaws look muscular. With his left arm akimbo, the warrior is holding up his right fist. His eyes are wide open and jaw tightly set, looking tough and courageous.

Other pieces include figures dancing, riding, playing with birds, and playing musical instruments. The craftsmen sculpted the sleeves in such a way as to produce a fluttering effect, giving a sense of motion to the figures.

Of all the animal designs, horses have been acknowledged as the most outstanding. They come in all shapes and sizes: standing, walking, galloping, neighing with their heads held high, and licking their fore or hind legs.

The most striking characteristic of the tricolour sculpture is the way actions and movement are captured in ceramic. As a result, this genre holds an important place in the history of Chinese sculpture.

Tang Dynasty pottery was so valued that, following the export to many countries, including some as far away as Egypt, Iraq and Indonesia, kilns were set up in Japan, Korea and the Persian Gulf region to produce imitations. This was the origin of "Persian tricolour" and Japan's "Nara tricolour."

Following the 1899 rediscovery, modern potters set to work reviving the art of Tang tricolour, though only on a small scale. Every year, a few hundred pieces were produced by local craftsmen, all of them copies of Tang originals.

Large-scale reproduction didn't come until 1979 when the Luoyang Art Pottery Factory was established.

Over the past five years much has been done to carry on the tradition and improve tricolour techniques.

Traditionally, the pottery was baked in small clay kilns over wood fires. With wood as fuel, the temperature was hard to control and many rejects came as a result.

In 1980, a 20-metre-long tunnel-shaped brick kiln was built in the factory. It uses coal as fuel. The new kiln greatly improved the quality of the products and reduced the number of rejects. In 1982, an automatic temperature control was developed, resulting in improvement in both the quantity and quality of the products. In 1979, a total of 16,000 pieces were produced. By 1983, however, the annual output was 84,000.

Improvement has been made in the strength of the material, overcoming the brittleness of the original pieces. Now small works can withstand pressure of 70 kg.

Fresh colours and new designs have been added. When it opened, the Luoyang factory had just six colours. Today, however, it has more than 30. The number of designs has increased from 70 in 1979 to some 400 in 1983.

"Silk Road" was one of the outstanding products to emerge last year. The work, four metres long, depicts 10 camels and seven merchants of various nationalities — all in different poses and displaying a wealth of detail. It was a sensation when exhibited in Hongkong last year.

CORRECTIONS: The 18th line from the bottom of the left column, page 16, issue No. 33, should read, "10.55 million tons".

In issue No. 35, p. 9, central column, the second paragraph should begin: "In August last year, 330 tons of wheat . . ."

In issue No. 35, page 32, the position of the two photos should be transposed.

FORTHCOMING

Journey Into Revolutionary China, both a history and a travel book, takes readers back to pre-1949 China to places of historical interest, and tells the tale of the Chinese people struggling in the face of tremendous odds. There is drama and suspense, tragedy and heroism, ingenuity and tenacity as the Chinese people led by the Communists move forward, sometimes retreat, but never give up.

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The book is indispensable for a true insight into China yesterday and today.

Approx. pp. 120

A special **Beijing Review** publication.

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Both Zhang Xinyu and his wife Zhu Qinbao, born in Jiangsu Province in the 1930s, are now working with the Jiangsu Art Gallery.

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