Lessons Learnt From the Resistance War

The Nanjing Massacre: A Historical Review
Folk Sculptor Liu Shengdao

Liu Shengdao, a folk sculptor in Yongchuan County, Sichuan Province, invests his own savings 100,000 yuan in building his hometown into a cultural and tourist centre. He plans to carve the Shilong Mountain in his hometown in the pattern of a wriggling stone dragon. Calligraphies and historical stories through the ages will be carved on the body of the dragon in the shape of dragon scales. Now he and his disciples have cut 80 pieces of calligraphies and are working on the 38-metre-long stone dragon.

Some accomplished works.

Liu passes his techniques to his disciple.
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Lessons of Resistance Struggle Recalled

Commemorations of the 40th anniversary of the victory in World War II spotlight the heroic war years and their significance for today (p. 4).

Nanjing Massacre — A Dark Page in History

This report describes the atrocities committed by Japanese troops when they overran the city of Nanjing almost 50 years ago, leaving more than 300,000 dead. From this massacre, people have learnt a lesson that they must try to eliminate the source of disaster — aggressive war — and never allow the tragedy to repeat (p. 15).

Seeking New Triumphs at 40

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has seen enormous achievements since its liberation 40 years ago, and a large-scale economic boom is now being planned (p. 11).

China Issues New Exchange Figures

China's central bank published statistics on the country's international revenues and expenditures from 1982 to 1984 (p. 30).

Senior Citizens in Guangzhou

The half million retirees in Guangzhou are perhaps the luckiest in China. Many find pleasure in leading a leisurely life at home, but others go on working while drawing full pensions. To give the elderly more opportunities for social contacts, an old people's society, a university and numerous clubs have been set up (p. 23).

University Sports Steam Ahead

Athletics is an important ingredient in China's higher education. While improving the health and fitness of the country's more than 1 million students, strong sports curricula also help prepare future star athletes (p. 26).
Remembrance of Battles Past

by AN ZHIGUO
Political Editor

For weeks the Chinese people have been marking the 40th anniversary of their victory in the anti-fascist war, which in China is known as the War of Resistance. Commemorative rallies and exhibitions, tributes to the war dead and martyred, forums, documentary films, reminiscences published in newspapers and magazines, and, above all, *Four Generations Under One Roof*, a touching TV series adapted from a trilogy by the famous author Lao She — all have tried to bring back to life the difficult and heroic years of the 1930s and 40s.

The Chinese nation faced its severest test of the century when the Japanese attacked in 1937. The country had already suffered many humiliating defeats at the hands of imperialist aggressors; Taiwan and northeast China were all under Japanese occupation. But now the country's very existence was in peril. To stand up and fight or to kowtow and become slaves — that was the choice given each and every Chinese.

The invaders were better-organized and better-equipped. But if they thought they could overpower their opponent by sheer brute force, they were badly mistaken. Atrocities like the Nanjing Massacre (see p. 15) merely provoked added hatred and strengthened the resolve of the Chinese people to fight back. The whole nation rose in resistance — in occupied areas, in Kuomintang (KMT)-controlled regions, and in the resistance bases led by the Chinese Communist Party (CPC).

There were fierce battles at the front and hundreds of daily skirmishes, ambushes and surprise attacks behind enemy lines. As the war dragged on, the initial Japanese advances along the coast bogged down. China eroded the strength of the invading forces and immobilized them, leaving the Japanese to defend islands of occupation lost in a vast sea of resistance. It was this unique combination of set-piece battles and guerrilla operations which Mao Zedong aptly named People's War.

The lessons of the Second World War must not be lightly forgotten. To understand and appreciate them, the facts must be made known and the falsifiers of history rebutted.

The Chinese resistance was part and parcel of the worldwide effort to defeat fascism. From the very beginning, the Chinese people had the sympathy and support of progressive forces the world over. These came as moral condemnation of Japanese war crimes, or as financial donations, supplies and volunteers. As the flames of war spread through Asia and the Pacific, the United States and Britain entered the fight and China became an important theatre of the Allied war against Japan. Just as the Resistance War was helped by the Allies' successes in other Pacific battles, and finally by Soviet advances into northeast China, Chinese counterattacks also reinforced other war theatres and contributed to the eventual defeat of Japanese militarism.

The Chinese people paid a heavy price for that final victory. China's War of Resistance Against Japan lasted eight whole years, longer than that of Europe, the Soviet Union or the United States. In both human and material terms, China suffered some of the severest losses in the world. Even by incomplete statistics, 21 million people were wounded or lost their lives. There was hardly a family which was not directly or indirectly affected. It was this bitter and unforgettable experience which propelled the Chinese people to fight on towards liberation.

The anti-fascist war taught the world many lessons, some of which are relevant even today. First, it shows that nations fighting for their independence have a spiritual power far beyond their military strength; that China, weak and backward as it was, could not be conquered or bullied.

It also pinpoints the need to meet aggression head-on, the earlier the better. Neither the Marco Polo Bridge Incident in 1937 nor Pearl Harbour in 1941 would have occurred if the Japanese militarists had been stopped in northeast China in 1931. Appeasement, the sacrifice of weaker nations for the sake of temporary security, merely whets the appetite of aggressors.

It further proves the viability of a united front against a common foe. Despite their deep-seated differences, the CPC and the KMT were able to co-operate, however
Employment in China

As a writer and educator, I find *Beijing Review* a valuable source of information and ideas, particularly for my current series of books on development studies.

I was excited by a small item in your "News in Brief" section in Vol. 28, No. 23, which reported that a third of China's total labour force, or 45 million people, had found jobs since 1979. Although I have been following economic development in China, there is a lot more that I would like to know. I would be very grateful if you could write a special article on "Job Creation in China." Unemployment is a huge problem in southern Africa and many other parts of the world. So it is urgent for us to learn more about reorganizing the economy in order to prevent unemployment.

Kathy Bond-Stewart
Harare, Zimbabwe

More News on Literature

While appreciating the new layout and contents of your journal, I am deeply grieved by your neglect of news on literary developments and Chinese writers both past and present. Though I do not protest when "sports" usurps the art and cultural sections, I think more coverage should be given to the proceedings of writers' meetings. I would like to see more details of China's annual short story contests and other awards, past data on writers, and reprints of speeches by veterans like Ba Jin, Ding Ling and also by younger writers.

K. Ganesh
Talatuoya, Sri Lanka

Impoliteness Deserves Criticism

Your article entitled "Cargo Handlers Rough Up Fridges" is well written for it plays up the role of the news media in criticizing and correcting unhealthy social tendencies and rough behaviour.

The article reminds me of one unhappy thing that happened in the winter of 1983 when I visited Beijing. My friends invited me to eat roast mutton in a famous restaurant. To my surprise, we were scolded by an assistant there because we had not made a reservation.

Perhaps they don't have the idea of competition at all. If this had happened in Japan, it would have been astonishing. The restaurant would go bankrupt because no customers would eat there.

Shojo Miyashima
Kumamoto, Japan

Development of Hotels

I agree with the idea expressed in your article in issue No. 30, 1985, that it is better to allocate funds to building more medium-grade hotels than luxury ones.

I visited your country in 1977. At that time, your principle was to build luxury hotels. This means you would close your door to those who, while they are not poor, still can't bear all the expense of luxury travel in China (please refer to p. 9 — Ed.).

Jacques Dubois
Bruxelles, Belgium
Hu Sets Up New Guidelines for Xinjiang

Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Hu Yaobang has urged the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to start direct trade with West Asia while forging closer links with eastern China.

Hu, who visited the northwest China region from July 20 and early August, also encouraged Xinjiang to readjust its rural economic structure by putting animal husbandry and fruit growing on a par with farming, which has been the focus of attention in the past few decades.

Xinjiang covers about 1.66 million square km, more than 11 percent of China's total land mass. It has vast pasturelands and is also renowned for its grapes and melons.

With the region now producing 400 to 450 kgs of grain for each of its 14 million people, Hu said, it should begin to give greater attention to other sectors, making them equal pillars of its economy.

The tour, his third since 1957, took Hu through ten prefectures in northern and southern Xinjiang. During an earlier visit in 1983, Hu stressed the region's great economic potential and predicted its economic takeoff by the turn of the century. Premier Zhao Ziyang also went there in the same year.

The fact that Xinjiang is now able to produce enough grain and cotton to meet its own needs is of far-reaching importance for its future growth, Hu noted. Its people still had a long way to go before they could catch up with the level of prosperity in economically more developed east China. Narrowing this gap should be the main concern of all officials in Xinjiang, he said. Urging active, bold and serious attempts to realize the region's development goals, he also called on its 14 ethnic groups to unite to overcome any difficulties.

Xinjiang should soon become one of the most modern areas in China, Hu declared.

The region has four major highways to the Sino-Soviet and Sino-Pakistan borders, and work is underway on extending the 3,561 km railway from the east China coast to Urumqi, Xinjiang's capital. The first phase of the extension project, a 240-km line from Urumqi to Usu, will be completed in 1988. It will then be pushed further westward to join the Soviet railway network.

The line is expected to help boost trade between Xinjiang and Central Asia, the Middle East and Europe. The region has verified oil reserves of 700 million tons and coal resources account for a third of China's total. It also has known deposits of 118 minerals and leads the nation in reserves of beryllium, lithium, white mica and albite.

Li Blasts Apartheid in Beijing Meeting

President Li Xiannian used the occasion of Tanzanian President Julius K. Nyerere's visit to Beijing to roundly condemn South Africa's apartheid policies.

Nyerere, making his fifth visit to China in 20 years, arrived August 19 and received a red-carpet welcome from Li outside the Great Hall of the People in Tiananmen Square.
In a speech at the welcoming banquet for Nyerere Li slammed the South African authorities and expressed the Chinese government and people's utmost indignation at the situation there.

"We'll firmly support the struggle of the South African people against racism," Li said.

The Chinese president said the recent developments in southern Africa have aroused the increasing concern of the international community. The South African authorities, Li said, have flagrantly enforced a "state of emergency" and intensified their racist rule.

He also condemned South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia, where, he said, Pretoria was propping up a so-called interim government in an attempt to obstruct Namibia's independence. The South African government has repeatedly intruded on and harassed its neighbours, disrupting the peace and stability of southern Africa, Li said.

Recently, the South African authorities made a statement saying it would enact some so-called reforms. That statement, Li said, was nothing more than a gimmick to deceive world public opinion.

"In reality they have obstinately clung to the policy of apartheid," Li added.

Li said China fully supports the relevant resolutions adopted by the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations that mandate the dismantling of apartheid.

During the Tanzanian president's four-day stay in Beijing, the two governments signed an agreement on economic, technological and trade co-operation. China has also granted Tanzania, now in the grip of what Nyerere called a "foreign currency crisis," the request to defer its debt payment to China.

Nyerere also met with other Chinese leaders Deng Xiaoping, Hu Yaobang and Zhao Ziyang during his China visit.

**China's current reform.** In an 80-minute talk with President Nyerere, Deng Xiaoping, chairman of the Central Advisory Commission of the Chinese Communist Party, discussed China's current economic reform. Deng said the reforms have met with a variety of responses, from critics who argue the changes will lead to capitalism, to supporters who do not doubt the future of China's socialist system. "I think the latter are far-sighted," he said.

"Our general principle is to adhere to the socialist road, to the proletarian dictatorship, to Communist Party leadership and to Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought," he added.

Deng Xiaoping said, "Any country must pay attention to its own specific conditions in building socialism, and must not mechanically copy the experience of others."

**China's Teachers To Get Day in Sun**

Millions of Chinese teachers will celebrate New China's first Teacher’s Day on September 10th.

To mark the occasion, large numbers of well-accomplished teachers will be commended and honoured; get-togethers and forums will be organized; parks, cinemas and theatres will be opened to teachers free of charge; and special stage performances will be held as an expression of gratitude to the teachers.

The celebration, proposed by the National People’s Congress early this year, is part of the national effort to raise the social status of teachers and focus the nation’s attention on education.

There are 8.6 million teachers in China, nearly two-thirds of them staffing the country’s primary schools. In spite of their numbers and their contributions to society, many of them still suffer from the political and economic discrimination that was once directed against all Chinese intellectuals.

During the "cultural revolution," teachers were classified as part of the "stinking ninth" category, the bottom rung of the social ladder.

With China’s shift away from its traumatic ten-year chaos to modernization, the status of teachers has been raised considerably, but it will be some time be-
fore “leftist” influence can be completely eradicated and educators still face many problems.

Politically, it was more difficult for teachers to be admitted to the Communist Party because of lingering distrust of their background as intellectuals. Until recently, only a small proportion were Party members.

Socially, they are looked down upon by many and given few chances for promotion. Worst of all, they are often insulted and in extreme cases suffer beatings at the hands of their tormentors.

Two readers from Erbian County, Sichuan Province, told how a teacher in their school was insulted and beaten unconscious by two villagers this March after he tried to stop them from bullying his students.

A number of similar incidents have been reported in other places, including the suburbs of Beijing.

Economically, teachers are still the lowest paid of China’s professionals. “Middle and primary school teachers in fact receive the lowest salaries of all,” said an official spokesman from the Education Commission.

Teachers in vast numbers of locally run schools in the countryside have been the worst off.

A May investigation in Weichang County, Hebei Province, showed that only five of the 44 teachers in the local village schools in a township were paid on time. Most have not received a pay check this year. But two had not been paid in 1984, while two more were owed salaries from late 1982 and one had not received a cent since the end of 1981.

These local teachers are also denied most of the welfare benefits granted to other professionals, especially free medical care.

Many urban teachers live in cramped apartments, and their children often have difficulties in finding jobs. Because of these problems, some try to leave their classrooms. Fewer university graduates are now considering careers in education.

New university graduates, even those from teacher’s universities and colleges, are reluctant to work in middle and primary schools. The Shanghai Education Bureau recruited 1,242 graduates from teachers’ colleges last year, but this year the figure dropped to 739, a decrease of 40 percent.

Seven members of the family of Zhao Xianchu (middle), principal of the Nanyang Middle School in Shanghai, are teachers. They now have pupils everywhere, as the inscription behind them reads.

News in Brief

Every family in Tibet will get 0.5 kg of tea next month, courtesy of the Chinese Communist Party and the State Council. To mark the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Tibet Autonomous Region on September 1, the Party and the government have also sent 90,000 digital clocks and 10,000 metres of silk to Lhasa. Some of these gifts have been delivered to Tibetan religious leaders and all the monasteries in the region. Meanwhile, with the central government’s help, the Tibet Television Station began transmitting regular Tibetan programmes late August.

Three people were recently appointed the presidents of the People’s Bank of China, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China and the Agricultural Bank of China. They are Wang Deyan, Zhang Xiao and Ma Yongwei.

An overcrowded tourist boat recently capsized and sank in the Songhua River in Harbin, northeast China, killing 114 of its more than 180 passengers. The cause of the accident, regarded as the worst in China in recent years, is still under investigation.
“Eighty percent of us don’t want to be teachers,” said a new graduate from the Huadong Teacher’s University in Shanghai. “Teachers are still looked down on in society. If you become a teacher, your classmates who have been assigned to state organizations, institutes and enterprises will look down on you. So most of us tried our best to find other jobs,” she said.

To meet the growing needs of China’s modernization drive, the Party Central Committee and the government have repeatedly called for more investment in education, and urged practical steps to improve teaching conditions.

“Party and government leaders at all levels must go to schools often to listen to teachers’ opinions and remove their worries and difficulties,” top leader Deng Xiaoping said at a national education conference in May. “What is leading? Leading means serving,” he added.

Following Deng’s call, huge sums have been allocated to build new housing and other facilities. Teachers have also been given priority in medical care and employment.

Mianchi County, Henan Province, raised more than 610,000 yuan in the first half of the year to repair teachers’ houses and buy desks, chairs and bookcases for classrooms. The county government allocated more than 400,000 yuan to build houses and dormitories for teachers and students.

Teachers were also given official commendations, admitted to the county’s Party organizations, and issued more than 89,000 yuan in back pay.

The government of all levels have drawn up plans to improve the teachers’ conditions. The government of Zhejiang Province, for example, will allocate 50 million yuan to building houses for teachers in the next five years.

The campaign will reach its climax around the Teacher’s Day. In Shanghai, for example, a drive to “Do good things for middle and primary teachers” is being sponsored by 39 Party and government organizations. Various services will be provided for teachers by related organizations, including house repairs, gas hookups, medical checkups and shopping.

An ongoing salary adjustment will raise the average teachers’ salary five yuan above those of other professionals. They will also get their rises six months earlier than clerks or cadres, according to an education commission official.

These efforts have received a good response from teachers.

“The establishment of Teacher’s Day shows the attention and concern of the Party, government and the people to education,” said a Shanghai educator with 57 years of experience. “What shall we do? I feel we should be more modest, respect ourselves, love teaching, keep our minds on our jobs, and make more contributions to improving our country’s education.”

Still, there are lingering doubts.

“The intentions and policies of the Party and central government are all very good, and we have seen some real improvement,” said a teacher from Hunan Province, “but they are often not carried out at the grassroots level because of lack of funds. We hope, the situation will improve, but we still have to wait and see,” he said.

Beijing’s Prospects
Touted by Mayor

Noting that a modern city cannot make rapid progress without opening to the world Beijing Mayor Chen Xitong told a recent press conference that his municipal government will do everything possible to promote international economic and technological exchanges. Pledging protection for investments, the mayor went on to make a sales pitch to foreign businesses considering putting money in China.

By last June, Beijing companies had signed 1,100 contracts with overseas businesses to import funds and advanced technology, representing a total value of some US$2 billion. Included in the total were 88 joint ventures and co-operative projects, involving more than US$1 billion. About half of the projects signed this year involved productive industries, mainly in the foodstuff, garment and telecommunications fields. There was also a marked increase in investment in medium-class restaurants and hotels, a change from the former investor preoccupation with top-of-the-line tourist facilities.

While the investment came in, Beijing products were going out to some 130 countries and regions. Beijing companies have now established trade relations with more than 10,000 counterparts around the world, making the capital one of the nation’s major trade centres.

“Our city offers equal opportunities to all countries — socialist, third world and developed nations alike — so long as the relations are based on equality and mutual benefit and are on a voluntary basis,” said the mayor.

Modernization hinges on the ongoing economic reforms and the open policy, he emphasized. “Without opening to the world and without reforms there will be no socialist modernization for Beijing.”

Chen said that his city government will unswervingly carry out the country’s open policy and that the people of Beijing will work to seek closer economic and trade ties with other countries and cities.
"At the same time," he noted, "everything will be done to protect the legitimate interests of overseas investors."

The mayor cited four factors to show that Beijing is ready for full-scale trade development and offers a good investment climate.

First, the city has formulated an urban development plan. According to a Party Central Committee and State Council directive, the prosperity of Beijing's urban and rural economy should reflect the city's stature as the nation's political and cultural centre. Accordingly, Beijing will devote its major efforts to developing industries that require little land and minimum energy and water supplies and that cause little pollution, such as foodstuff processing, electronics and high-tech industries.

Second, said the mayor, Beijing is now able to offer a good environment for overseas investment. Over the last three decades, the municipality has expanded to cover 16,800 square kilometres, 360 square kilometres of which are urban areas. The transportation network has developed to keep pace. Beijing's railway terminals handle up to 40 million passengers a year, and the airport's 50 domestic and international routes serve 2.5 million people annually. Postal and telecommunications services have been improved, and there are now direct telephone connections with 38 countries and regions. Many office buildings and hotels have sprung up all over the city, and more are under construction.

Third, the city itself is a potentially big market, what with its huge urban and rural population of 10 million and a daily flow of nearly 900,000 visitors.

Fourth, Beijing is now in a better position to increase its foreign exchange incomes. Chen noted that the city has built up a sizeable industrial network and many of its products have found their way into the world market, grossing an increasing amount of foreign exchange revenue. The booming tourist industry is also an important source of hard currency. In the first half of 1985, Beijing received 370,000 overseas tourists, up 53 percent over the same period last year.

**Killer Earthquake Takes Heavy Toll**

A strong earthquake hit Xinjiang on August 23, killing 55 people and injuring over 100.

The quake, which was centred near Wuqia on the autonomous region's western border with the Soviet Union, registered 7.4 on the Richter Scale, the State Seismological Bureau said.

It levelled nearly 90 percent of the homes in Wuqia County, and also destroyed houses, warehouses and a post office in neighbouring Shufu County.

Large numbers of soldiers and local police have been called out to aid in rescue operations. Food, medicines, building materials and other relief supplies are pouring into the disaster area from other parts of the country, Xinjiang officials said.

Party Central Committee Secretary Hu Qili, Vice-Premier Tian Jiyun and Civil Affairs Minister Cui Naifu rushed to the scene to inspect the damage and extend their sympathies to the victims.

The quake was followed by 13 aftershocks of at least 3 on the Richter Scale. Stronger tremors with magnitudes as high as 6 may also hit the border zone, seismologists warned.

**China & the World**

**Korean Youth Tour Arrives in Beijing, Show Good Will**

A Korean youth good-will delegation began a two-week visit of China on August 23. The delegation consists of 500 young people from all walks of life in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Headed by Li Yong Su, Chairman of the Central Committee of the League of Korean Socialist Working Youth, the group is the first of its kind to visit China in the history of Sino-Korean relations.

**China Protests False Viet Charges Trespassing**

Reacting to Viet Nam's announcement that it will release 19 Chinese who "illegally intruded into Viet Nam," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Chinese were innocent civilians who were kidnapped by Vietnamese troops. The "illegal intrusion" charge was a fabrication by the Hanoi authorities, he said.

**Diplomatic Briefs**

- Chinese President Li Xianian met a Canadian parliamentary delegation headed by Steven Papreski, deputy speaker of Canada's House of Commons, on August 20.
- Chinese President Li Xianian on August 23 met a Spanish senate delegation headed by Speaker Jose Federics De Carvajal.
- Australian Governor-General Sir Ninian Stephen and his wife made a four-day unofficial visit to China recently.
DPRK

Seeking New Triumphs at 40

North Korea has achieved considerable success in its socialist construction over the 40 years since its liberation.

by XU BAOKANG

The people of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) set foot upon a new path on August 15, 1945, when they won their liberation from Japan’s colonial rule. The enormous progress achieved since that day in political affairs, economics, culture, science and technology is reflected in today’s Korea. While continuing to mine its coal and non-ferrous metal resources and develop its steel, power and transport industries, the DPRK is determined to vitalize its light and service industries. The quality of light industrial products has seen improvement and the selection has widened over the past year. A diversified economy is taking shape. In cities and towns, there has been a rapid increase in the number of household and sideline producers. Some 19,000 such small enterprises now exist throughout the country. With the expansion of light industry, business management has improved and the number of sales outlets has increased. Light industrial products made by enterprises in the provinces and cities make their way to Pyongyang’s markets, and manufacturers in the country are encouraged to open joint retail stores in provincial capitals. This brisk market has resulted in convenience for consumers.

North Korea’s multilateral and diversified trade policy has spurred rapid development in foreign trade. Foreign economic co-operation has also become more common, as evidenced by a joint venture law promulgated last September. North Korea planned to expand its trade with China, the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe 10-fold by the late 1980s. To introduce up-to-date technology and modern facilities, the DPRK is ready to establish trade relations with Western countries that respect the nation’s sovereignty. It has reformed its foreign trade management system, tailoring it to the needs of foreign trade operations: Some of the commercial enterprises previously managed by trade departments are now under the charge of production units. To pool funds for domestic construction, Pyongyang is stepping up efforts to explore, process and export non-ferrous metals, an abundant natural resource of North Korea. The DPRK’s scientists and engineers have been called upon to perform research in line with the country’s current situation that will promote economic development.

Over the past 40 years, the DPRK has made unremitting efforts to reunify the North and South by peaceful means. Some proposals — calls for tripartite conferences, North-South parliamentary meetings, economic talks and Red Cross negotiations — have won the support of Koreans on both sides of the dividing 38th Parallel and peace-loving people all over the world. The South Korean authorities have shown interest in discussing a number of North-South economic and humanitarian
co-operation projects, but should do a lot more. The early withdrawal of United States troops from South Korea would create favourable conditions for Korea's peaceful reunification.

The friendship between the Koreans and the Chinese as comrades-in-arms and brothers was forged with blood during their common defence against foreign invasions and in the course of their respective socialist construction. The Chinese people trust that, under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea and President Kim Il Sung, Korea will achieve both its construction goals and its final reunification.

Japan

Nakasone's Shrine Visit Draws Fire

As the world marks the 40th anniversary of the end of World War II, Japan struck a jarring note amid the universal calls for peace and justice.

by XIN ZONG

PEOPLE all over the world have greeted the 40th anniversary of the end of World War II by reaffirming their resolve to oppose aggression and maintain world peace. They once again condemned fascist atrocities and honoured the memory of those who laid down their lives so that freedom could prevail.

The single jarring note in this universal chorus of peace and justice was heard on August 15. On that day, the anniversary of Japan's surrender 40 years ago, Prime Minister Yashuhiro Nakasone visited the Yasukuni Shrine, making himself the first post-war head of government to worship there in his official capacity. Eighteen cabinet ministers were there also in their official capacities. The shrine commemorates the 2,464,151 Japanese war dead—14 first grade war criminals including Hideki Tojo among them.

The visit touched off a storm of criticism both in Japan and overseas. The country's opposition parties and a number of popular organizations organized demonstrations to voice their resolve to prevent a "repetition of past mistakes." The Tokyo Shimbun pointed out that the officials' visit to the shrine indicates "the danger in trying to whitewash the crimes of that war of aggression." Nakasone's official visit evoked a reaction in Asian countries similar to that of the "textbook issue" three years ago, the Yomiuri daily added, when the Japanese government instructed publishing companies to rewrite school history textbooks in an attempt to cover up Japan's wartime crimes against neighbouring countries.

Lian He Zaobao of Singapore in an editorial said the officials' visit to the shrine indicated "the danger in trying to whitewash the crimes of that war of aggression." Nakasone's official visit evoked a reaction in Asian countries similar to that of the "textbook issue" three years ago, the Yomiuri daily added, when the Japanese government instructed publishing companies to rewrite school history textbooks in an attempt to cover up Japan's wartime crimes against neighbouring countries.

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Like many other Asian countries, China hopes that the Japanese government will bow to the historical facts and take an unequivocal stand on where the guilt and responsibility for its appalling war of aggression must lie. This is the best guarantee against the renewal of militarism and the recurrence of any such crime, Xinhua said.

However, the Chinese news agency added, the Japanese government decided for the first time to pay an official visit to the Yasukuni Shrine. It openly declared that its purpose was to "honour the memory of those who gave their precious lives to defend their motherland and their fellow-countrymen." Then, as if on second thoughts it said that it "is deeply aware of the tremendous suffering and damage inflicted on the other peoples, first and foremost other Asian peoples."

These conflicting statements make it appear that Japan wants to obscure the wicked nature of a war of aggression unleashed by Japanese militarists, Xinhua said—an aim that is unacceptable to the nations and peoples who went through that world holocaust.

In making its decision, the Japanese government has pandered to and actually emboldened those in Japan who have always wanted to deny the aggressive nature of the war and reverse history's condemnation of Japanese militarism. This has given rise to much concern among the peoples of Asia, and put them on their guard once again, the commentary concluded.
Peru

Empty Coffers Spur Dramatic Acts

Despite Peru's devastating economic difficulties, the United States announced its plan to suspend economic and military aid to Peru. To prove that Peru's pockets are truly empty, new President Alan Garcia announced that his government will sell the country's Washington embassy and New York consulate.

by ZHANG ZHENYA

In a signal to the United States of just how broke the Peruvian treasury is, recently inaugurated President Alan Garcia announced August 9 that he is putting the nation's Washington embassy and New York consulate up for sale.

Garcia, 36, nailed up the "for sale" signs in the wake of a US State Department announcement that the US government is suspending new economic and military aid to Peru until Lima's lingering debts are paid off. The Peruvian president's response was the equivalent of a man pulling his pockets inside out to show just how empty they truly are.

Rampant inflation and poverty have devastated Peru. The living standards are no better than they were 20 years ago. The unstable economy, social unrest, never-ending strikes and right wing military sabotage have endangered the newly elected democratic government. Since taking office July 28, Garcia's government has announced a series of emergency measures aimed at ending the economic crisis: A freeze on prices for daily commodities, service fees and rent; a hike in the minimum wage; a temporary shutdown of the banks; a reduction in loan interest rates from 280 percent to 110 percent; and a devaluation of the national currency, the sol, by 12 percent. Against this backdrop, the US State Department issued its untimely order to pay up, and the president put the embassy and consulate on the real estate market.

Peru is one of the poorest countries in Latin America. Its debt amounts to about US$15 billion, but that figure pales in comparison with the US$100 billion debts of Brazil and Mexico. Therefore, the United States, Western Europe and Japan and their multinational banks have never considered Peru a serious default threat. Even as Peru's economy has fallen into deep trouble, they have stood by without offering assistance — apparently the amount they stand to lose does not warrant the risk of further involvement.

However, the debt situation in Peru has changed suddenly. As Garcia took office, he announced a three-part policy on the payment of foreign debt: First, he said, his government pledges to pay its debts; second, his government will use only 10 percent of the country's annual income to make debt payments; and third, his government will not allow International Monetary Fund (IMF) advisers to supervise its economic austerity policy. Garcia's announcement evoked political sympathy from Latin America's debtor countries. While Garcia's policy does not take a reckless attitude, it reflects the great obstacles to economic growth in all debtor nations. The plan to forbid the intervention of the International Monetary Fund won applause from Latin American politicians, who see the IMF as an agent of its creditors.

Since the debt crisis erupted in Mexico in 1982, international political and financial organizations have worked to solve it. And, thus far, no major failures have occurred. Therefore, some bankers and investors in the developed countries believe the debt bomb has been defused.

However, the "continental dialogue" on Latin American foreign debts held recently in Havana and Garcia's new initiative offer a challenge to the international creditors. The international debt crisis is a problem not only for the debtors, but also for the creditors. Why shouldn't they change their rigid attitudes and provide favourable trade and loans to the debt-ridden nations in order to help them make economic recoveries?

Hanoi

'Faith' Put on the Instalment Plan

While promising a total Vietnamese withdrawal from Kampuchea by 1990, Hanoi's Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach also noted that his country's troops would have to stay longer, "if the Kampuchean army cannot ensure its national security."

by HUANG YUAN

HANOI on August 16 announced plans for a total military withdrawal from Kampuchea by 1990, describing the move as a demonstration of Vietnam's "good faith in solving the Kampuchean issue" that "shortened to a large degree" the pullout timetable put forward earlier.

It is well-known that the core
of the Kampuchean issue is Viet Nam's invasion and occupation of Kampuchea. To solve the problem, the last six United Nations General Assembly sessions passed resolutions demanding Viet Nam's unconditional withdrawal to allow the Kampuchean people to settle their own destiny without outside interference. However, Hanoi's position on this point has not changed.

The pullout within five years, for one thing, is nothing new. A communiqué of the 10th "Indochinese foreign ministers meeting" early last January said that Viet Nam would "withdraw from Kampuchea within 5 to 10 years." The newly proclaimed five-year timetable is nothing but a reprint half a year later.

Second, if Hanoi wants to show its good faith, it should simply withdraw its troops without delay. Why delay until 1990? Viet Nam and Kampuchea are neighbours, and one year is enough in the sense of distance.

Third, even the "withdrawal within five years" pledge is spongy. According to the communiqué, Viet Nam would not hesitate to "adopt appropriate measures ... if the withdrawal is used to sabotage the peace and security of Kampuchea." As Phnom Penh's foreign minister, Hun Sen, further explained, Viet Nam's withdrawal was considered in connection with the elimination of the Khmer Rouge and its shelters. "If Kampuchea's troops prove insufficient to ensure its national security," added Nguyen Co Thach, "Vietnamese troops must stay longer."

However, facts demonstrate over these six years that Viet Nam has been unable to destroy the Kampuchean resistance forces, and that the Kampuchean people will not accept the Heng Samrin regime.

Viet Nam's "total withdrawal within five years" is obviously a play for time. Prince Norodom Sihanouk, president of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, called it a trick to "cheat the international community" in order to "win time to consolidate Phnom Penh's Heng Samrin regime." The Vietnamese hoped to bore the international community by endless delay which in the end, would cut the Coalition Government off from international support.

As to the self-determination of the Kampuchean people, Hanoi still insists that the settlement of the Kampuchean issue be premised on the elimination of the Khmer Rouge. Hanoi claimed that Son Sann and Sihanouk must "sever from the Khmer Rouge" if they want to talk. That is a political trick meant at splitting the Kampuchean resistance forces and legalizing the Heng Samrin regime, said a leader of Sihanouk's Nationalist Army.

Since the beginning of this year, Viet Nam has become increasingly isolated, escalating its aggression against Kampuchea, trespassing on Thai territory and refusing the proposal of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations asking Viet Nam to hold "proximity talks" with the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea for a political settlement of the Kampuchean issue. Viet Nam has sensed it would encounter graver pressure at the coming United Nations Assembly, and used the spell of "talks," "negotiations" and "solving substantial issues" to hide its continuous efforts of aggression, cheat the public and avoid international pressure.

South Africa

Students Strike Despite Suppression

Despite the threat of possible arrest, black school children continue to defy authority and remain out of school.

by CHEN GUOWEI and XUE LIN

BLACk school children in South Africa have been on strike despite a police suppression.

On August 20, the army and police conducted house-to-house raids in Soweto, urging pupils to go to school or face arrest in what the police described as a "crime prevention operation."

Armed police smashed down doors, wrecked houses, beat and kicked residents and arrested 300 Soweto school-children two days later for boycotting classes.

Scores of pupils from Witbank's three townships were in police custody last week after being arrested in pre-dawn raids conducted by police nine days ago.

A school committee member said Soweto looks like a concentration camp these days. "According to instructions from the police given to various schools, pupils who want to leave the school grounds during school hours must have either a written permit or a school stamp on their palms," he said.

Parents in Soweto have strongly protested the police and army raids in the townships, saying they have aggravated the already tension-ridden situation there.

Residents have been angered by the raids and say they are uncertain why police should urge their children to go to school "when these same people surround their schools and arrest them."

In Western Cape, pupils from 22 schools have been boycotting classes since the stayaway began three weeks ago, and 40 other schools have been affected by the boycott to a certain extent.
Nanjing Massacre: A Dark Page in History

by Y. L. TING
Our Correspondent

In the sweltering summer heat, I travelled to Nanjing, the capital of Jiangsu, to take part in activities commemorating the 40th anniversary of victory in the War of Resistance Against Japan. The 37-storey Jinling Hotel, new factories and dozens of new apartment buildings speak volumes for the progress, while old mansions, pavilions, and tree-lined streets and lanes stand as reminders of a past that knew much misery.

Almost half a century ago, Nanjing was devastated by a brutal massacre at the hands of the Japanese army, a catastrophe that left dead an estimated 30 percent of its 1 million population.

In December 1937, the Japanese aggressors marched into Nanjing, which had served as the capital of the Chinese government. To show off their strength and boost the morale of their troops, Japanese officers unleashed their soldiers to kill, burn, rape and loot. The city was ravaged in a six-week orgy of terror.

Relics of Tragedy

In memory of the innocent thousands murdered during the massacre, Nanjing city authorities recently built a memorial hall at Jiangdong Gate, 5 km southwest of the city.

On the front gate is an inscription by Deng Xiaoping which reads, "Memorial Hall to the Compatriots Murdered in the Massacre of Nanjing Committed by Japanese Forces in China." On a wall are inscribed the words in Chinese, English and Japanese: "Victims: 300,000."

Standing in front of the entrance to a room displaying the skeletons of victims is the statue of a mother. From her anguished eyes, she seems to be pleading, "No more war." Adjacent to the room is the Historical Materials Display Hall, where numerous historic photographs, files and objects provide evidence of Japanese troops' atrocities.

Jiangdong Gate and the nearby Shuixi Gate and Shangxinhe are the places where Japanese troops slaughtered Chinese soldiers and civilians by the tens of thousands. The unarmed Chinese soldiers and residents were executed and lay dead for months until charitable organizations collected their bodies and buried them on the spot. That is why the area is known as the "pit of ten thousand dead." When the hall was constructed, piles of bones were unearthed and some were set aside for display in the hall.

In addition to the Jiangdong Gate, there are 12 other sites scattered around the city where massacres occurred. At Yanzi Rock on the northern outskirts, for example, more than 50,000 unarmed Chinese soldiers and more than 20,000 residents were executed by machine gunners. Another example is the Yuleiying slaughter ground, where, on the evening of December 15, more than 9,000 Chinese were shot. A few days later some 30,000 were murdered on the same spot. Bodies and heads lay scattered all over the area for two months.

At the foot of Mufu Hill the Japanese held in captivity more than 57,000 refugees and unarmed Chinese soldiers. Japanese troops beat and starved some of them to death and then marched the survivors off to nearby Caoxie Bend, where they finished them off with machine guns and bayonets. They then set the bodies afire and later threw the unburnt remains into the river.

The best historical records show that some 340,000 people died in Nanjing, 190,000 in group massacres and 150,000 in individual murders. Nanjing's death toll surpasses even the combined figure for Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Jap-
Japanese cities levelled by the first atomic bombs. In addition, one-third of the houses and buildings were destroyed in the waves of violence (for the execution sites, see the sketch map).

Professor Lewis S. C. Smythe of the University of Nanjing and his assistants conducted a survey of 13,530 households on behalf of the Nanking (Nanjing) International Relief Committee between December 1937 and February 1938. In their survey report they wrote:

"Among the 13,530 families investigated... there were reported men taken away equivalent to almost 20 percent of all males of 16-50 years of age... 14 percent of all women over 16 were widows. Among the injuries reported to our Rehabilitation Commission for relief was rape, to the extent of 8 percent of all females of 16-50 years. This figure is a serious understatement, since most women who suffered such treatment would not volunteer the information, nor would their male relatives."

**Historic Records**

Japanese newspapers carried little coverage of the atrocities. On the contrary, some newspapers devoted much of their space to describing the tranquility of the city. The following, which appeared on January 8, 1938, in the Chinese-language newspaper *Sin-Shun Pao* published by the Japanese in Shanghai, is typical of such efforts:

"The herds of refugees who fled for their lives from the midst of death have met with the gentle soothing of the Japanese Army. They respectfully kneeled by the side of the road in joyful thanks.... Many thousands of herded refugees cast off their former absurd attitude of opposing Japan and clasp-
Japanese soldiers looted the city, even using baby carriages to carry their haul.

Such distorted coverage, however, failed to divert the world's attention from what actually happened in Nanjing.

The North China Daily News, published by the British in Shanghai, printed a letter which read in part: "At Nanking the Japanese Army has lost much of its reputation, and has thrown away a remarkable opportunity to gain the respect of the Chinese inhabitants and of foreign opinion." Two days after the Japanese troops entered the city, the letter continued, "the whole outlook was ruined by frequent murder, wholesale and semi-regular looting, and the uncontrolled disturbance of private homes, including offences against the security of women."

Such considerations, however, failed to divert the world's attention from what actually happened in Nanjing.

Tillman Durdin, correspondent of The New York Times, said in a dispatch from Nanjing: "Mass execution of war prisoners added to the horrors the Japanese brought to Nanking. After killing the Chinese soldiers who threw down their arms and surrendered, the Japanese combed the city for men in civilian garb who were suspected of being former soldiers. In one building in the Refugee Zone, 400 men were seized. They were marched off, tied in batches of 50, between lines of riflemen and machine gunners to the execution ground. There was no doubt as to their fate."

Durdin continued, "The writer watched the execution of 200 men on the Nanking Bund. The killing took 10 minutes. The men were lined against a wall and shot and then a number of Japanese, armed with pistols, trod nonchalantly around the crumpled bodies, pumping bullets into any that were still kicking."

The China Weekly Review, published by Americans in Shanghai, printed on April 23, 1938, an account of Japanese barbarity against Chinese women: "A German who was familiar with happenings in Nanking following the Japanese occupation stated that at least 20,000 Chinese women and girls had been violated by Japanese soldiers. Many of the girls were practically infants and there were two authenticated cases of rape of old women, one 72 and the other 76."

On January 23, 1938, about one month after the Japanese occupied
Nanjing, Shanghai’s newspaper Da Kung Pao reported “Many places were caught in fire and the terror continued unabated. All the shopping streets were razed to the ground, with no one seen in sight except dogs roving for something to eat. The whole city became a vacuum except for the Refugee Zone.”


The book quoted the diary of a long-term foreign resident, who described the scene on December 20: “Vandalism and violence continue absolutely unchecked. Whole sections of the city are being systematically burned. All of Taiping Road, the most important shopping street in the city, was in flames. Further south we could see the soldiers inside the shops setting fire to them and still further they were loading the loot into army trucks. That night, I counted 14 fires from my window, some of them covering considerable areas.

“In all modern history,” the diary entry continued, “surely there is no page that will stand so black as that of the rape of Nanking.”

Left: Bodies were littered everywhere.

Right: Soldiers stand by laughing as one of their ranks murders a kneeling man.

Two Japanese soldiers, Toshiakai Mukai and Iwao Noda, competed to see who could kill the fastest.
Japanese Version

Commander-in-chief of the Japanese forces in China General Iwane Matsui, in his attempt to induce capitulation, declared, "Though harsh and relentless to those who resist, the Japanese troops are kind and generous to non-combatants and to Chinese troops who entertain no enmity to Japan."

In explaining the mass executions in Nanjing, Matsui claimed they were accidental and committed only by a few officers and men without the knowledge of headquarters.

However, it was widely believed that the massacre was ordered to eliminate the thousands of unarmed Chinese soldiers in case there were riots when the Japanese troops ceremoniously marched into the city.

Kesago Nakajima, commander of the Japanese 16th Division, shed light on the truth in his diary entry of December 13, 1937: "Since the policy allows no captives to be left alive, all the captives are herded somewhere for solution or luried somewhere for execution."

Japanese soldier Riichi Kurihara's diary also produced evidence that the Japanese army's established policy was to kill all Chinese captives. He wrote, "The 1st Brigade's 135 soldiers captured and disarmed 13,000 Chinese soldiers. All the captured were shot from both banks when they were marched off on board small boats to a small island on the Yangtze River. That night all the Chinese soldiers were bayonetted one by one until dawn. Then all the bodies were sprayed with gas and burned or tied in bundles with willow twigs and cast into the river. Our troops killed as many as 13,500."

"The killing happened on the evening of December 17 or 18," the diary continued. "Since the captives were more than 10,000 in number, it was already dusk when they all arrived at the place. Upon the order to shoot, I saw within my sight they were desperately struggling and thrashing about. Some lay dead upon others. The piles of dead were three to four metres high."

Toshio Ota, an officer at Matsui's headquarters, confessed in 1954 when he was imprisoned at the Fushun War Criminal Centre, "The arrangement of the bodies lasted about five days, beginning December 14. At Dingbochang alone, more than 100,000 bodies were cast into the river or burned, and bodies arranged by other troops were at least more than 50,000. Those who still breathed were bayonetted. Most of the killed were civilians."

In his book *The Massacre of Nanking and the Three-All Battle* (Kill all, burn all and loot all), Kohei Moriyama, chief editor of the Monju-sha, said, "It is hardly understandable even though the army chieftains considered it necessary to slaughter. . . . Foremost in their minds was not just slaughter, but rather how to take pleasure in killing. Many soldiers invented and used a wide variety of ways and means for killing."

Many newspapers all over the world revealed how two Japanese soldiers actually held a killing competition. The Tokyo-based *Nichi-Nichi Shim bun* reported, "The two soldiers agreed to kill 100 before entering Nanking. On December 10, the two met at the foot of Purple Gold (Zijin) Mountain in Nanking. One said he had killed 105 and the other said he had killed 106. Carrying their edge-nicked Japanese swords in hand, the two soldiers laughed 'aha-ha.' Since it was impossible to ascertain which had first passed the 100 mark, it was decided to call it a tie and extend the competition into the next day."

The report, which included photos of the two contestants,
stated that the race “started with renewed vigor on December 11 for the 150 goal.”

Many Japanese newspapers, such as Osaka’s Mainichi Shimbun, acclaimed the barbarity in Nanjing. This glorification of wholesale murder showed the absurd nature of the Japanese fascists and their cult of Bushido.

**Dark Secrets Revealed**

The Japanese military withheld information about their barbarity, especially the massacre of Nanjing, from the Japanese public. Matsui repeated over and over back in Japan in February 1938 that he was “conducting a holy war to save the East Asian nations.” But the truth started to slip out when Japanese soldiers glibly recounted their “heroic deeds” at Nanjing when they returned to Japan.

The dark secrets of Nanjing did not stay hidden away for long. Within a few years the dimensions of the massacre were well-known. When the tides of war changed and the Japanese finally surrendered, Matsui and the other generals responsible for Nanjing’s suffering were arrested. In December 1948 Matsui and six other war criminals were executed, their bodies were cremated and their ashes were not returned to Japan as American army regulations stipulated. Some Japanese, however, slipped into the crematory, stole some ashes, and buried them. To honour the convicted war criminals, they erected a memorial to the “Seven Martyrs.” But the farce was not to last. Japanese opposition to the barbaric acts in Nanjing had existed all along, and the “Seven Martyrs” memorial was destroyed in 1971 on the 34th anniversary of the massacre.

**Lessons of History**

The construction of the new memorial hall has reminded both Chinese and Japanese of the events of 1937-38. One of the more than 500 people who attended the opening ceremonies at the hall, Katsuchi Honda, a reporter for Asahi Shimbun, said, “Only friendship based on the understanding of historical facts is genuine friendship.” During a special tour of Nanjing in 1983, Honda made a detailed investigation of the Japanese atrocities in the city and published a 100,000-word report titled The Road to Nanking. He refuted the allegation that the massacre was a “fabrication.” His book has sparked a public discussion of the Japanese army’s invasion of China.

A recent city-wide survey turned up 1,756 witnesses to the Nanjing Massacre, of whom 176 escaped alive with scars still visible on their bodies, 544 people’s relatives were killed and 44 women were raped.

This correspondent visited four of the victims.

Wu Changde, 76, recalled, “In 1937 I was a policeman in Nanjing. When the city was taken, my parents and wife fled to northern Jiangsu Province and I was left to take care of the home. To my surprise, the Japanese saw me as an ex-soldier and marched me off to Hanzhong Gate together with about 2,000 others. Some 100 were singled out, bayoneted and machine-gunned. I was later singled out, too, and marched to an area near the city moat. There were only two machine-guns, but piles of bodies lay around. As soon as the machine guns fired, I pretended I was hit and fell on one pile and lay beneath several others. Later, I felt someone walking on me and I was hit by bayonet on my back. The Japanese were trying to find out whether anyone was still kicking. It was already dark when they set the bodies afire. I sneaked away and hid in a nearby straw stack.”

The bayonet scar is still visible on Wu’s back. Wu appeared as a witness when the Far East International Military Tribunal heard Matsui’s case in May 1946.

Chen Degui, a retired worker, recounted his story. “I was then 17, subsisting on rummaging through trash on the streets. When Nanjing was taken by the Japanese, I took refuge at a British foodstuffs factory together with many other Chinese. The Japanese picked up more than 2,800 young men from among us, and, after search-
Chen Degui, Xia Shuqin, Li Xiuying.

locked us inside a warehouse. Two days later, they said they wanted us to work somewhere, but actually they marched us out and killed us in groups. I was in the third group and we were marched off to a coal wharf. I saw 30 or more Japanese standing on the bank with rifles in hand. I pretended to fall down, plunging into the river and swimming to an overturned railway car in the river. There I saw with my own eyes the Japanese firing at the other people in the group. When the sun set there were many to be killed. They machine-gunned them. I went ashore after the Japanese had left. I shivered with cold, picked up a torn blanket and slept awhile among the bodies. Unexpectedly, the Japanese discovered me and shot me, hitting my thigh and a finger, I lost consciousness. On the third day, when some people came to bury the bodies, they found me still breathing and sent me to the Refugee Zone. I recovered after 10 months. Look, I'm still missing one finger joint and the scar is still visible on my thigh.

Xia Shuqin, a retired woman worker, broke into tears when she recalled what happened to her family during the massacre. She said she was 7 when the Japanese took the city. One day, a horde of Japanese soldiers wearing black boots broke into her home. Without uttering a single word, they ran amuck, killing and bayoneting her family. They stripped her sister of her clothes and bayoneted her three times. Xia lay unconscious, and when she came to she found her grandparents, parents, two elder sisters and a baby sister all dead in pools of blood. Of nine family members, only she and a three-year-old sister survived the orgy.

Days later, Xia's relatives helped bury the dead. "I wondered," she said, "why the Japanese killed them, all innocent."

Li Xiuying, who knew a little about self-defence, recalled how she fought with the Japanese soldiers. When the Japanese entered the city, she, seven-months-pregnant at the time, took refuge with her father in a school basement. Some Japanese soldiers, swords in hand, came in and grabbed a few women to rape. Preferring death to rape, Li thrust her head against the wall and lost consciousness. She regained her senses later. Then three Japanese soldiers came in again. Two pulled two women into another room and the third tried to strip her clothes off. She decided she was about to die anyway, so she might as well fight. The soldier could not knock her down, and he cried to the others for help. The three bayonet her more than 30 times, leaving her to die.

After the soldiers departed, Li's father thought she was dead and prepared to bury her. But she later regained consciousness, though her unborn child was dead. The scars on her face and body are still visible.

She appeared as a witness in 1947 when the Nanjing Military Tribunal tried the case of Japanese war culprit Toshio Tani, who was executed one year later. The Massacre of Nanjing left the city in ruins and the people in pain. But it also taught the people that disaster came from aggressive war and they should direct their hatred against Japanese militarism.

The 1,756 witnesses are not only witnesses to Japanese barbarity, but a powerful force for promoting Sino-Japanese friendship. Wu, Li and many other victims often play host to visiting Japanese delegations and tourist groups. They convince people of both countries, especially the younger generation, to learn from history and make sure the tragedy is never repeated.
Opening the Southwest: An Expert Opinion

by PAN QI

In August 1984, I accompanied Gordon Wu, General Manager of Hopewell Holdings Limited of Hongkong and a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Brian D. Littlechild, a British geological engineer from Ove Arup & Partners of Hongkong, and W. G. Elliott, Hopewell's Executive Director, on a tour of Guizhou and Guangxi, in southwest China. After covering these areas by air, water and land, the visitors were all greatly surprised by their abundant mineral resources and excellent tourist spots. They did not stint in their praise. As Elliott put it: "Several other American friends would have come with me on this trip, if they hadn't believed the stories they heard about Guizhou's poverty and backwardness. I also did not expect that Guizhou's resources would be so rich and its landscape so beautiful. It appeals to me very much."

Wu, a graduate engineer and top Hongkong real estate man, is enthusiastic about promoting China's modernization programme. I told him that China's southwest can be compared to the West Coast of the United States. Once developed, it could not only enrich itself, but also help supply materials to the better-developed coastal region, thus benefiting the whole country. He and his companions all agreed with me on this point.

To study the question of developing and opening the southwest, I have made three trips to Yunnnan, four trips to Guangxi and five...
trips to Guizhou in the past year. I believe that the region (it also includes Sichuan Province) must open to the outside world to speed the pace of its economic growth. I do not agree that China’s opening to the outside world must proceed gradually from the east coast to the interior. That’s a conservative point of view. Rather, I believe that the opening of the southwest can run parallel to that of the east, and can be carried out at the same time. Only by doing this can we speed the economic development of the southwest.

Through on-the-spot surveys, I found two channels from the southwest to the outside world: One to the east, and the other to the south.

Cargo can be shipped from the southwest to the east China coast along the Changjiang (Yangtze) and Xijiang Rivers. The northern parts of Guizhou and Yunnan can be linked up with the coast by the Changjiang River, while the southern parts of the two provinces can find outlets in Guangzhou or Shenzhen, in Guangdong Province, through co-ordinated train-and-bus or land-and-water routes. The Nanpan and Beipan rivers, two tributaries of the Xijiang River, can be used to serve this aim. Outlets could also be found at Beihai and Fangcheng, in Guangxi. Both are open port cities on the Beibu Gulf which could draw on the resources of the southwestern provinces such as Sichuan, Yunnan and Guizhou to set up their own programmes of opening to the outside world. I have suggested to the local authorities concerned that pipelines be utilized to send high-quality coal from west Guizhou to Bose, in Guangxi, or even to Beihai and Fangcheng. The terrain along this route drops steeply from west to east. In addition, supplies of water are ample. Conditions there are good for developing pipelines, which would be much more economical than building railways or highways.

Looking towards the south, we could find outlets in Burma; that is, we could select an appropriate route across the 1,000-plus-kilometre Yunnan-Burma border to export the rich resources of west Yunnan. For example, there are large deposits of high-grade diatomite near Tengchong, in Yunnan, that could be exported. A ton of processed diatomite brings US$2,000 on the international market. Other minerals such as bauxite, phosphate rock, iron ore, lead, zinc, tin, mica, gold and silver could be exported, too. What is more, many scenic spots in Yunnan and Guizhou will certainly appeal to foreign tourists.

There was a road connecting western Yunnan with southeast and west Asia quite early in history: Zhang Qian, a Han Dynasty (202BC-220AD) diplomat, helped open a southern “Silk Road” from Sichuan, and the artery was travelled for centuries.

I also investigated several possible passages from Yunnan to the outside world. From the mining area of Tengchong, for example, one highway leads westward to Myitkyina, in Burma, where a railroad is available to transfer cargo to the sea. A second highway leads south to Lashio, another major Burmese railhead. And between those two, a third road leads to Bhamo, on the Irrawaddy River. None of these roads is over 300 kilometres long. Furthermore, an international airport is being planned for Mangshi, in west Yunnan. That will give the city air services to Hongkong, Guangzhou, Ran­goon and even to Bangkok and Singapore. If this comes about, the western part of Yunnan will have more than one avenue to the outside world.

These are just my tentative ideas on the opening of China’s great southwest, but I think they can be put into effect.

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**Guangzhou’s Aged: Life Begins at 60**

*by LIU NANCHANG*  
*Guest Reporter*

It is just after dawn on a humid June morning in Guangzhou, and the temperature is already climbing past 30°C. The streets of this south China metropolis are alive with people strolling to work or gliding through the sinuous movements of their daily tai ji quan (shadow-boxing) exercises. Soon the tempo of the day will begin accelerating towards its rush-hour peak. But for now, there are few vehicles about and the loudest sound is the fluid chirping of thousands of caged songbirds out with their owners for an early airing in local parks.

Most of these bird fanciers are elderly men, some of the nearly 500,000 retirees in this city of 5.6 million people. Many will spend the rest of their morning following the distinctive Cantonese custom known as yum cha (drinking tea) while nibbling steamed shrimp dumplings and other hot snacks and chatting with friends in a pleasantly crowded restaurant.

Others, however, prefer to keep busy, like Huang Huoxing, a 63-year-old former auto repairman. Huang, who reached the mandatory retirement age three years ago, is but one beneficiary of a 1983 Guangzhou government decision permitting retirees to go back to work while still drawing their full pensions. After spending a year at home, caring for his grandchildren and puttingter the neighbourhood helping with local chores...
like collecting sanitation fees or directing traffic, he was hired as a technical adviser by a nearby repair shop. One of over 100 small private businesses fixing autos or motorcycles, the shop pays Huang 150 yuan a month for his services. Together with his monthly pension of 80 yuan, 75 percent of his original pay, he now earns slightly more than many high-ranking Chinese government officials.

Many retired workers have gone into business for themselves fixing electrical appliances, doing home repairs, or installing water and electrical meters. Others own or manage small restaurants, snack bars, hotels, nurseries, schools, flower shops or tailor shops. Of the more than 400 enterprises run by Guangzhou retirees, one of the largest is the clothing factory run by Zhang Jing. A former seamstress, she convinced several other retired tailors to join her in the venture. With a start-up loan of 20,000 yuan and shop space offered by her neighbourhood committee, Zhang and her partners went on to capture buyers in markets as far away as Beijing and Tianjin. The factory earned 80,000 yuan in its first year of operation.

Another success story is the sparetime foreign languages school run by Xu Shunying and six other retired teachers. All taught in Guangzhou middle schools for years before their retirement. The oldest is now 80 and the youngest, 63. Seeing that the city was short of foreign language professionals after its opening to the outside world, they raised money to open a school offering courses in English, Japanese and typing. In the past five years, they have trained more than 1,000 people, including 57 typists. Many are employed by foreign consulates, overseas companies, Sino-foreign joint ventures, tourist agencies, and import-export companies. Another 73 graduates have gone abroad to work or study.

"If it weren't for the open policy, I'd still be home minding my grandson," Xu joked.

**Self-Service Organizations**

Like retirees in other Chinese cities, Guangzhou's elderly are looked after by retired workers committees in their original work units.

However, the burgeoning of independent businesses and undertakings run by the retirees themselves has resulted in the emergence of a number of old people's organizations such as sports centres, fishing clubs, painting and calligraphy societies, photography clubs, gardening societies, tourist clubs and reading groups.

Guangzhou also has the Linghai Old People's Society, the first city-wide old people's organization in China, as well as the country's
first newspaper for the elderly, *Laoren Bao*, and its first hospital for the aged — the Yishou (Longevity) Hospital.

Funded by Xu Shunying, the Linghai society was established in November 1982 to give Guangzhou's elderly more opportunities for social contact, to safeguard their legal rights and, when necessary, offer advice on employment or family problems. The society now has 40 full-time council members and staff members who oversee a correspondence section, a welfare section, and research and liaison sections.

It has also set up an old people's university which now has many famous scholars, artists and calligraphers serving as administrative committee members or advisers. The university offers classes in classical Chinese poetry, calligraphy, painting, and health care. Each course lasts a year.

The Linghai Old People's Society has received warm support from the public. Some enterprises have donated money; many painters and calligraphers have contributed their works; and several famous actors and actresses have given benefit performances to collect money for it. Many overseas Chinese have also given money or equipment such as cars and colour televisions. The Guangzhou city government allotted the society a 2,000-square-metre site for the construction of a nine-storey centre which is scheduled for completion this year. In addition to the society's existing facilities, it will also have a restaurant, lodgings and many entertainment equipment.

*Laoren Bao* (The Old People's Paper) was initiated by a group of retired journalists. Printed and distributed by its founders' former employers, the biweekly eight-page tabloid is popular not only for its readable stories, but also for a mail order catalogue service which offers Guangzhou-made goods to old people all over the country.

The Longevity Hospital was founded in July 1983 by retired doctors Li Hegao and Luo Jiachong, with the help of many retired public health workers and the financial support of major hospitals throughout Guangzhou. With the aid of 22 veteran physicians who serve as advisers, the hospital can maintain outpatient and inpatient departments, as well as 75 beds for advanced-stage cancer patients and old people with other chronic diseases.

**Improved Welfare**

Following wage and price reforms which allow local businesses to follow market forces, the price of vegetables, non-staple foods and some small commodities has risen in Guangzhou in recent years. Will this affect pensioners' lives? "Certainly not. Like the Chinese proverb goes, 'when the river rises the boat goes up too,'" said Zhang Zhenyun, a retired primary school teacher.

With 40 years of teaching experience, Zhang retired three years ago on her monthly pension of 80 yuan. Last year, the Guangdong provincial government raised that by an amount equivalent to 15 percent of her original salary. This spring, after easing price controls on pork, the city government gave each resident a monthly subsidy of 19 yuan. "In fact," said Zhang, "our income growth has been going up slightly faster than prices."

Economic development has also brought more revenue into the coffers of local and provincial governments and boosted the earnings of Guangzhou enterprises. This, in turn, has allowed them to spend more on welfare facilities for the elderly.

Most of the city's senior citizens' recreation centres have been upgraded. Long wooden benches have been replaced by couches or armchairs, transistor radios by stereo systems, and small black-and-white TVs by large-screen colour sets. With increased funds, organizations such as the retired teachers society can also offer their members trips to resorts in other parts of China.

However, not all pensioners are as lucky as Zhang. Because they are looked after by their former employers, many retirees depend on factory managers for their welfare benefits. If the business only

(Continued on p. 29.)
University Sports Pick Up Steam

by XU JIA

China has sent 162 athletes to the 13th Universiade now being held in Kobe, Japan. Students from physical culture institutes and regular universities and colleges are competing in the 11 sports at the games.

University athletes began taking part in international competitions soon after the founding of the People's Republic in 1949 and astounded the world with their remarkable achievements.

Today, China's university athletes and athletic teams are looking stronger than ever.

Li Ning in contest.

China has a history of more than 80 years in running physical culture institutes and physical education departments at universities and colleges. But the training yielded few results until the country saw peace after 1949. Over the past 35 years, the 13 physical culture institutes have helped prepare a host of world-famous athletes. They include former men's high-jump world record holder Zhu Jianhua from the Shanghai Physical Culture Institute; Zhou Jihong, women's springboard diving champion at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, from the Beijing Physical Culture Institute; gold medalist fencer Luan Jujie from the Nanjing Physical Culture Institute; and the women's volleyball team, women's basketball team, and men's and women's table tennis and badminton players.

Physical culture institutes are generally composed of the following departments:

- A four-year physical culture department aimed at nurturing sports coaches for middle schools and training athletes;
- A four-year sports department designed to train teachers, coaches and athletes majoring in track and field, gymnastics, basketball, volleyball, football, table tennis, swimming, wushu (martial arts) and other items. A two-year course is also provided;
- A four-year basic sports theory department which trains teachers and coaches in sports anatomy, sports physiology, sports medicine and sports biomechanics;
- Short-term courses geared to provide on-the-job training for teachers, coaches and sports officials in sports theory and raise their professional level; and
- A correspondence department.

Like other schools of higher learning, China's physical culture institutes enrol high school graduates or students with an equivalent education. During the school years, students are expected to participate in special training programmes and take some 20 courses in basic theory. There are, of course, regular examinations. Students are also organized to compete in various kinds of sports contests, an important means of testing the quality of training and teaching, improving the skills of the students, and raising their ability as umpires or in organizing sports meets. Over the past 35 years, physical culture institutes have had some 30,000 graduates and 400 postgraduates.

Sports is an important component of China's university and college courses. The purpose is to improve the health and fitness of the more than 1 million students while preparing athletes for the state.

The state has mandated that physical culture must be part of the regular curriculum, and standardized physical education teaching materials are used at all universities and colleges. Students are required to attend no less than 140 hours of physical education classes in their four-year school terms and pass their examinations. Universities and colleges test their students in a number of track and field events to monitor their progress.

Beijing's Qinghua University, one of the most respected institution of higher learning in China, boasts a strong sports teaching staff, including 13 professors and associate professors, 30 lecturers...

The author is a member of the Chinese sports delegation to the 13th Universiade and staff member of the State Physical Culture and Sports Commission.
Van Hong nabbed a silver medal in the 3-km women's heel-and-toe walking race at the first world indoor track and field meet held on January 18, 1985, in Paris.

The late Professor Ma Yuehan taught physical culture at the university for more than 50 years. Today, though over 80, Xia Xiang, vice-president of the Chinese Olympic Committee and a famous sports educator, is still active in Qinghua's sports world. Apart from the compulsory basic sports courses, students at the university can make a choice of 13 sports, including ball games, track and field, rhythmic gymnastics and wu shu. At present, the university has 22 sports teams. The best are the track and field squads and the men's and women's handball teams.

Teachers and students of Xiamen University on an island off Fujian Province have made swimming their favourite sport, and many have become top-notch swimmers. The university also boasts a very good baseball team.

The Beijing Languages Institute, where about 1,000 foreign students from more than 90 countries study, puts strong emphasis on traditional Chinese sports. Many international students have taken up tai ji quan (shadow boxing), a sport they find "fascinating with its ancient Chinese culture." Quite a number of them have modified old habits of going to bed late and getting up late in the morning so they can attend dawn tai ji quan classes with master shadow boxers.

The Wuhan Geological Institute considers mountaineering education an important subject. Three students from the institute joined a China-Japan joint mountaineering expedition that conquered Tibet's Naimonanyi Mountain last May, and one of them successfully reached the peak at 7,694 metres.

Southwest Teachers' College, located in the suburbs of Chongqing, has organized upwards of 90 percent of its students into regular exercise programmes. Its wu shu association has more than 600 members and its football group has attracted some 200. In addition, there are a bridge association and a women's football team.

An annual rowing competition is a big sports event at Zhejiang University in the picturesque city of Hangzhou. Though the competition does not have the long history of the Cambridge-Oxford event, it is full of competitive spirit.

China holds national college students games every four years, in addition to national or regional individual event competitions every year.

Recent years have witnessed a dramatic improvement in the level of competition among university and college athletes. Of the Chinese delegation to the Kobe Universiade, some of the men's basketball players, track and field athletes and swimmers are from these universities and colleges. More than just athletes, the basketball players major in such subjects as industrial and civil engineering, industrial electrification, foreign languages and literature.

The Chinese University Athletic Association is charged with coordinating sports activities in universities and colleges. Operating under the leadership of the All-China Athletic Federation, it oversees the planning and organization of university sports activities. The first college students sports meet, held in Beijing in 1982, was attended by 2,200 students from all over the country. The second is scheduled to take place sometime next year.

In 1975 China became a full member of the International University Athletic Federation. Since 1977 it has taken part in the past four Universiades held in Bulgaria, Mexico, Romania and Canada. Chinese teams have also attended a number of individual events tournaments.

Today, universities and colleges in China have a contingent of sports coaches and well-equipped athletic facilities for teaching, training and research. Sports as a means of building physique and character, promoting friendship with people from other countries and winning glory for China have become part of college life. And elite athletes emerging from the halls of education are doing their part to speeding the development of sports in China.
Tradition Rivaling Modernization

China's cultural consciousness must grow alongside the modernization. Otherwise, modernization will result in a lopsided industrialized society.

China's modern culture evolved from an agricultural environment, and the cultural consciousness tradition that was dominant in China for several thousand years has not been remoulded thoroughly. The negative side of these traditions are bound to conflict with the needs of the modern socialist society. Conflicts are manifested in many areas:

1. Conflict between the establishment of a social network structure and the idea of a unified domain;
2. Conflict between the principle of equality in a network structure and hierarchy of the traditional culture;
3. Conflict between today's rule by law and traditional rule by individuals;
4. Conflict between the modern democratic system and the old patriarchal clan concept;
5. Conflict between the all-round development of the individuality and the principle of community;
6. Conflict between the demand for creation and the traditional conservative psychology;
7. Conflict between open-door and closed-door policies;
8. Conflict between competition and the Confucius doctrine of the mean;
9. Conflict between material interests and a strict system of ethics;
10. Conflict between the needs of social consumption and the past principle of worshipping the thrifty.

China's modernization will not move ahead smoothly if the traditional culture is not remoulded along the way.

Master in Replacing Lost Hand

On June 29, 1985, Yu Zhongjia, director of the orthopaedics department of the Shanghai No. 6 Hospital, was awarded a top national prize for his achievement in developing surgical techniques for restructuring hands and fingers.

The procedure involves suturing numerous small nerves, muscles and blood vessels, making it more difficult than other re-implantation operations.

The methods formerly used to replace lost fingers gave results that were both ugly and clumsy. Moreover, artificial hands were inflexible and insensitive.

After several experiments, Yu began using a skeleton made of titanium alloy to join the new hand to the bone of the forearm. By taking skin, flesh, blood vessels and nerves from the patients' big toe together with a whole second toe, he was able to construct hands that can pinch, grasp and twist.

His patients are now able to write, play chess, carry water, strike a match and sew with their new limbs.

Yu has performed 30 such operations since 1978, with a success rate of 90 percent.

In 1982, his techniques created a sensation at the International Micro-orthopaedics Conference in Paris. Yu was allowed to speak for 40 minutes instead of the 15 minutes normally allowed.

China's Postgraduates Expound on Love

China's postgraduates think the best age for dating is between the ages of 20 and 27 for men, and 19 and 25 for women. It is during that span of years, the group said, that one is most romantic, ambitious and courageous.

The group, which was asked for its opinions on love and marriage in a recent survey, put relationships into two categories: Those when the partners are compatible, with similar interests and educational backgrounds; and those when the man and the woman have divergent interests and ambitions.

The men in the survey put more importance on a woman's appearance as a selection factor for marriage than did the women, who said they gauged their potential
mates and their dating partners by their manners and their personality.

The postgraduates split their decisions on the role of a wife. Some thought that a woman should retain the traditional role of "virtuous wife and good mother." Others, however, said such a capacity was out-of-date and that women should be expected to contribute to the family in ways other than as wife and mother, and that men too should contribute more than as breadwinners.

A 136-year-old Uygur man has been found living in Yengisar County of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

Tuerdi Shalayi, born on April 2, 1849, attributes his longevity to good genes, his mother and siblings lived to be older than 100 years old, eating lightly (pancake, mutton soup, fresh vegetable and fruit) and a happy family life.

With a slight figure, about 160 cm tall, the centenarian still walks steadily, and though he is hard of hearing, his eyesight is as keen as ever. Neither a drinker nor a smoker, Shalayi does some light gardening each day, visits friends and relatives and retires early.

Guangzhou Aged

breaks even, they may receive little besides their basic pension. Worse, if the factory loses money, it may need loans in order to meet its payroll, posing a strong threat to the pensions due its retired workers. The problem is not so great for the state-run factories, which can call for government support, but it is a more serious danger for small collectively run factories or labour service companies.

Currently, Guangzhou is trying to solve this problem by several different means. One is turning over all retirement benefits and pensions to the city government. This programme would be funded by welfare payments levied on all local employers. Another is the experimental introduction of pension insurance, which would guarantee steady payments even to formerly self-employed workers.

Although housing conditions in Guangzhou have improved in recent years, quite a few old people still live with their children and grandchildren. Many others, however, prefer to live by themselves.

The city government has also built 19 homes for the childless retirees, facilities which now offer lodging to nearly 2,000 people. The number is set to double by the end of the decade, when there will be one such home in each of Guangzhou's neighbourhoods.

With improved management, many businesses have also earned enough to build their own old people's homes. A charcoal briquet shop, for instance, recently opened a home for its childless retired workers. Its nine bed rooms, three sitting rooms and a recreation room are equipped with a library, a colour TV and a stereo system. Currently, there are nine people living there, looked after by staff hired by the briquet shop. Youth groups from a nearby primary school often send children to keep the retired workers company — a move which one resident said has dispelled their last worry: Loneliness.

September 2, 1985
China Issues New Exchange Figures

The People's Bank of China has for the first time published statistics on China's international revenues and expenditures. The figures, which cover the period from 1982-84, are a systematic record of the country's economic, political and cultural exchanges with other nations expressed in monetary terms. Released on September 2 after three years of preparation, they will help international financial organizations and overseas investors keep abreast of the situation in China. Such statistics will be published irregularly in the future, the bank said.

China's Balance of International Payments
(1982-84) Unit: USS million

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1982</th>
<th>1983</th>
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<tr>
<td>(1) Regular Items</td>
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<tr>
<td>a) Trade</td>
<td>4,249</td>
<td>1,990</td>
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<td>Exports (F.O.B.)</td>
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<td>20,707</td>
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<td>Imports (F.O.B.)</td>
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<td>b) Labour Service</td>
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<td>1,574</td>
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<td>Earnings</td>
<td>3,604</td>
<td>4,028</td>
<td>4,819</td>
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<td>Payments</td>
<td>2,665</td>
<td>2,289</td>
<td>3,245</td>
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<td>c) Transfers Gratis</td>
<td>486</td>
<td>511</td>
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<td>Private</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>436</td>
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<td>Government</td>
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<td>(2) Capital</td>
<td>338</td>
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<td>a) Long-Term</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inflow</td>
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<td>Outflow</td>
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<td>b) Short-Term</td>
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<td>Inflow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outflow</td>
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<td>-334</td>
<td>-1,113</td>
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<td>(3) Errors and Omissions</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>-366</td>
<td>-932</td>
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<tr>
<td>(4) Increase or Decrease of Reserves</td>
<td>-6,291</td>
<td>-3,648</td>
<td>-95</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Explanations of the Items

1. Trade figures are based on customs statistics and adjusted to the terms of international revenues and expenditures.

2. Labour services include carriage and premiums on cargo, port supplies and services, tourism, investment profits, bank interest, service charges and other items.

3. Transfers gratis include free aid and donations between China and international organizations and foreign governments, overseas remittances, revenues and expenditures of residents, etc.

4. Long-term capital refers to capital with contractual payment time limits exceeding one year and capital with undefined payment time limits, such as capital stocks. It includes direct investments, stock investments, loans from international organizations and foreign countries, money borrowed by banks, departments and localities, overdue payments, overdue receiving, processing and assembling, evaluated payments for equipment, loans owed to foreign businesses in compensation trade, and other items.

5. Short-term capital refers to immediate payments and capital with contractual payment time limits of one year or less, including currency. It includes money borrowed by banks, departments and localities, overdue payments, and overdue receiving.

6. Errors and omissions are
differences between regular items and capital items, and the sum of the increase and decrease of reserved assets.

7. The sum of the increase and decrease of reserved assets reflects the differences between the surplus of the present year and the previous year in China’s gold reserves, foreign exchange reserves, reserved money supplies of fund organizations, special rights to draw money and the use of fund credits. And increase in reserved assets is indicated by a minus sign, and a decrease by no symbol.

**China’s Trade Deficit With US Mounts**

China’s trade deficit with the United States reached US$1.37 billion in the first half of this year, or 21 percent of the nation’s total, showing a marked increase over the same period last year and no signs of abating.

The trade deficit with the United States was spurred by the nearly 40 percent increase of American goods over 1984 imports, and by 10 percent fewer Chinese goods being sold to the United States in 1985 than during the same period last year.

Since 1972 when Sino-American trade relations were restored, the United States has become China’s third largest trading partner after Japan and Hongkong. Since then, its trade deficit with the United States has increased steadily. By the end of last June, the figure had reached an accumulative total of US$14.8 billion.

The beefed-up deficit can be attributed to two things: China’s increased demand for US technology and equipment and stiff US trade restrictions.

In the past few years China has had a growing demand for advanced foreign technologies and equipment, a demand that to date has included such high-ticket items as Boeing aircraft and diesel locomotive engines. Chinese trade officials have said that as long as America continues to occupy a dominant position in the production of such technology, China will continue to purchase this kind of American goods.

China’s textile and crude oil and petroleum products account for the bulk of its trade with the United States. Rigid US-imposed controls have limited the exports of China’s textiles and clothing to the United States.

China’s trade with the United States started 200 years ago when the US ship *Empress of China* visited China. Today the volume of trade between the two countries has grown considerably. As China is the biggest developing country and the United States the most developed country in the world, the two nations have their own economic advantages. Through their joint efforts, the two countries will surely be able to boost their trade relations.

**BOC Loan Fund Helps Back Trade**

The Bank of China (BOC) has earmarked 2 billion yuan to help right China’s unfavourable foreign trade balance in the coming year, according to banking officials in Beijing.

The money, in the form of loans, will be used to purchase goods for export which are much sought after on the international market, and to fund equipment and technology purchases under the state plan. Further loans will also be extended to Sino-foreign joint ventures and other co-operative and foreign-owned businesses in China.

The BOC will open its purse to help upgrade and expand enterprises in energy, transport, non-ferrous metals and raw materials, while also aiding the upgrading of factories producing textiles, food, electrical appliances, automobiles and building materials, the officials added.

**New Tianjin Zone Still on Way Up**

Construction is continuing on the first phase of the new Tianjin Economic and Technical Development zone, officials in the north China city said recently.

The development zone, located
near port facilities on the Bohai Sea, will cover 33 square km when completed. Work on its first three square km area began late last year. Already completed are basic infrastructure facilities including highways, water pipes (34 km long) and drainage. A natural gas pipeline, power station and telecommunications cables are also being built or laid.

Plans have been made for the construction of an administrative building and a service centre. The former will house, among others, offices of the administrative committee, the development corporation, Customs and post and telecommunications services.

More than 300 business representatives have come to Tianjin from the United States, Japan, Britain, Federal Germany and elsewhere to negotiate on 137 industrial projects in the new zone. Among the eight joint venture contracts signed, four have already gained approval from the central government.

**Suzhou River Gets Pollution Treatment**

With the help of the World Bank and Australamment, China has made plans to clean up Shanghai’s polluted Suzhou River.

The first stage of the project, which was recently approved by the Shanghai people’s government, is estimated to cost more than 1 billion yuan. With regard to the use of the World Bank loans, international bidding will be called for the project, which will try to target and neutralize pollution sources. According to the programme, a 29.9-km-long pipeline will be laid to block the flow of polluted water and to empty treated water into the Changjiang River. The project also entails construction of 44 polluted water drainage systems, which will cover 70.6 square kilometres and serve 2.55 million residents.

At the same time the Shanghai people’s government will use administrative, economic and legal sanctions against the flow of factory pollutants into the river.

Experts have proved through experimentation that the polluted water can be diluted in the drainage areas and will not affect the living environment of the fish; nor will it cause the backwash of polluted water.

The second stage of the project is intended to address the pollution sources of the Huangpu River and to improve the polluted-water regulating pipelines in the western and southern parts of Shanghai, China’s largest industrial city.

**China Relaxes Travel Rules**

More flexible policies are expected to be adopted by China for foreigners residing or travelling in the country and for Chinese nationals wishing to go abroad.

A draft law concerning the entry and exit of foreigners to China has been approved by the State Council and is now being examined at the 12th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Sixth National Peoples Congress (NPC), which opened on August 26 in Beijing.

The provisions of the law include the freedom to travel in all open areas without the need for permits, which are currently required; freedom to leave China without an exit visa so long as a valid passport is held; and the granting of permission for long-term or permanent residence for foreigners who are in China for reasons of investment or economic and technological co-operation.

The 45-article draft law stresses protecting the rights of foreigners in China. But it denies entry to China by those who are regarded as harmful to China’s interests.

The draft law is in line with the principle of the state’s policy to open to the outside world and its efforts to strengthen exchanges with other countries. It is also aimed at simplifying procedures for the rocketing numbers of people entering and leaving the country.

The number of foreigners coming to China has increased at a rate of between 10 and 20 percent a year since 1979 when China embarked on the open policy as a cornerstone of the nation’s modernization drive.

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

- The People’s Insurance Company of China earned 1.5 billion yuan from its domestic and overseas insurance transactions in the first six months of this year, about 70 percent more than in the same period last year.

Of this sum, more than 1.1 billion yuan came from domestic business, 82.2 percent more than in the same period last year. Overseas business accounted for US$130 million, up 90 percent from the same period in 1984.

Earnings from private property insurance reached 30 million yuan, 169.8 percent more than the same 1984 period. Some 11.76 million urban and rural households have insurance cover. Earnings from life insurance came to 130 million yuan. There are 5 million Chinese life insurance policy holders to date.

The company attributed the increase in its business to the ongoing urban economic reforms and to the constant improvement in living standards.
Developing New Energy Sources

China began developing new energy sources shortly after the founding of the People's Republic. Some progress has been made in this field.

The country's economic development in the last three decades has created a constantly rising demand for energy. With increased consumption, power shortages have become a major problem. The wanton felling of trees, a side-effect of the energy shortages, has seriously endangered the country's ecological balance. The development of new energy sources has thus been given top priority by government economic planners.

Already, researchers are discovering huge potential in alternate forms of energy. Two-thirds of China gets enough sunlight to make solar power exploitation feasible. The country's wind energy potential is estimated at 1.6 billion kw, of which 160 million kw can be tapped. Its annual direct consumption of biological energy is equivalent to 220 million tons of standard coal. China also has 680 million kw of exploitable hydropower reserves, including 150 million kw for small hydroelectric power stations. Its geothermal energy reserves are believed to be considerable, and a survey is now under way to verify them.

Solar Energy. China began working on solar energy in the 1950s, and now has more than 160 research institutes employing over 3,000 people nationwide.

The country now has 60,000 solar cookers, more than any other country in the world. They were initially used only to heat water for bathhouses, barber shops, restaurants and hospitals. Solar energy, however, has since gradually been applied to industry and agriculture. For instance, 30,000 square metres of solar-heated hot-houses have been built on a trial basis. By maintaining temperatures above 8-12 degrees centigrade, the hot-houses can boost winter supplies of vegetables. They can also be used to grow rice and cotton seedlings, grow flowers and raise fish and other aquatic products. In north China, some people have attached solar panels to their homes, thus making rooms warmer in winter and saving much coal.

Solar desiccators have also been used to dry timber, fruit, herbal medicines and other agricultural products. They shorten drying times by two-thirds and improve the products' quality significantly.

In 1971, solar cells were successfully used on China's second man-made satellite. Since 1973, as production costs have come down, they have also been widely used to power maritime navigation aids and railway signals, and aid livestock breeding and plant protection. Solar cells now supply low voltage power to electrified fences on 140 livestock farms to protect pastures. They also supply electricity to remote areas, allowing peasants and herdsmen outside the reach of the country's major power grids to have electric lights and watch TV.

Wind Energy. Still a small-scale power source in China, it is used mainly to generate electricity and drive water pumps. At present, 3,000 small wind-powered generators are in operation, most of them owned by herdsmen, living in remote pasture areas. Of the 8,000 wind-powered pumps now produced in China each year, a few are sold to the pasture areas, while most go to areas along the east and south coasts to be installed in salt ponds. Tests are also being conducted on producing large wind-powered generators, and wind-driven pumps will be used for irrigation on islands off the coast of Fujian and Zhejiang provinces.

Marine Energy. The development of tidal energy is still in the experimental stage. Some tidal pow-
er stations have been built along the south and east China coasts. Of these, seven are now in operation, with a total generating capacity of 5,000 kw. In the South China Sea, small tide-driven power generators have been used to provide electricity for beacons.

**Biological Energy.** Methane gas is produced from wastes, as well as with industrial effluents and by-products from wineries, breweries, tanneries and slaughterhouses. This effort can also help improve the environment. In the suburbs of Shanghai and Shenyang, pipeline networks have been built to supply methane to domestic users.

In south China, rice and cotton husk is also being exploited as an energy source. Because direct burning does not produce sufficient heat and is inconvenient, a new gasification stove has been developed to give consumers a new kind of fuel that burns much like conventional methane or natural gas.

**Small Hydropower Stations.** By the end of 1984, the total generating capacity of China's small power stations had reached 9.06 million kw. In developing this resource, attention has been given to raising water storing capacity and to carrying out water diversion projects.

**Geothermal Resources.** So far, more than 2,500 sites have been discovered to have geothermal resources. Their underground temperatures are usually between 60 and 90 degrees centigrade. At present, geothermal energy is mainly used to nurse crop seedlings, raise fish and heat homes. Some experiments have also been conducted on generating electricity with geothermal energy. A 7,000-kw geothermal power station near Lhasa has already begun supplying electricity to the Tibetan capital.

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**Educators Share Teaching Ideas**

Chinese and American educators met July 29-August 5 in Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, to share their experiences and ideas for improving teaching on both sides of the Pacific.

Some 35 Chinese and 25 American teachers and academics attended the Sino-American Academic Exchange Conference on Teaching Methods in Higher Education. The delegates divided into four groups to hold workshops on the goals of education, reform in teaching methods, improving the learning experience, and the uses and misuses of educational technology.

Much of the meeting focused on how China might learn from the West and how the West could benefit from the Chinese educational experience.

While Chinese schools tend to spawn disciplined and highly knowledgeable graduates, they often fail to instil students with independent thinking ability and a sense of creativity. Old teaching methods that rely heavily on rote memorization are partly to blame, the conference delegates noted. Meanwhile, American schools have problems providing their often-creative graduates with the discipline and socially oriented goals that Chinese students display.

"Some of the liveliest discussions," said conference co-director Dr. Lynne Belaief of the City University of New York, "concerned the differences between Westernization and modernization, the role of the educated person in a rapidly changing society, the question of why education has failed to serve the individual and the society, and obstacles to creative thinking."

The conference was sponsored by the Shanxi Branch of the Chinese Education Association for International Exchange, the City University of New York and the United Nations Development Programme.

The conference papers are to be published in a report that will include dozens of specific recommendations for educational reform, many of which will be tried out in Shanxi Province schools. A second conference is scheduled for the United States in 1986 to evaluate the reform efforts and to continue the analysis of teaching methods.

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Beijing Review, No. 35
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