China Hopes to Expand Sino-US Relations

ZHAO ZIYANG TO VISIT EASTERN EUROPE
Protecting the young.

Cui Xinyi (girl, 9)

Photographs by Children

Honouring the teacher.

Jugong (boy, 9)
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Zhao's June Visit

The highest-level visit to Eastern Europe by a Chinese leader in two decades, Zhao's upcoming tour is intended to strengthen bilateral links between China and Eastern Europe and exchange experiences in socialist construction with Eastern European counterparts (p.5).

China's Policies on Sino-US Relations

When he visited the United States as head of a Chinese government delegation, Yang Shangkun, Vice-Chairman of the Central Military Commission, brought Americans the message that China is ready to contribute its share to the further development of Sino-US friendship and cooperation. But he also called on Washington to handle the Taiwan issue properly so as to avoid new twists and turns in their relations (p.14).

China-E. Europe Trade Expands

Trade between China and Democratic Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Bulgaria dates back over 30 years. Even with the ups and downs the trend has been upwards. According to a five-year (1986-90) trade agreement signed in 1985 between China and the five countries, total trade volume should be 20 billion Swiss francs, in this period. The targets, it seems, will be fulfilled (p.17).

Advertising Booming in China

Since advertising made its comeback in 1979, it has quickly boomed, the number of companies, and employees and the business volume have all expanded so that advertising is now part and parcel of the country's economic life (p.18).

China Continues Building the Protestant Church

A new era of development and cooperation in the Chinese Protestant Church is underway. In an exclusive interview with *Beijing Review* reporters, Anglican bishop K.H. Ting gave an overview of the burgeoning state of China's religious life today. Regular services, training Christian leaders, religious publications and developing friendly relations with Christian groups and individuals overseas are part of the new religious freedom (p.26).
Zhao Ziyang, acting general secretary of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and premier of the State Council, will visit Poland, the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Bulgaria from June 4 to 21. An important diplomatic move of the People’s Republic of China, the visit is aimed at promoting mutual understanding, trust, co-operation and maintaining peace. It will contribute to the strengthening of friendly co-operation and exchanges between China and the above five countries and to the maintenance of world peace.

In recent years, the friendly co-operation between China and these five East European countries has made rapid and remarkable progress. There have been growing exchanges of major delegations as well as mutual visits between various departments of the two sides. The range of co-operation is continuously expanding and it is becoming more and more effective. The understanding and friendship between the Chinese people and those in these five countries have also been promoted. What is more, contacts at high levels, which had been suspended for over two decades, have now resumed. The direct summit meetings between China and these East European countries provide a solid political guarantee for the full-scale development of bilateral relations. China has already signed accords of long-term co-operation in the fields of economy and trade with these countries and established commissions on economic, trade and scientific and technological co-operation with them. All of these have already yielded positive results.

Both sides hope to have a peaceful international situation, desiring to defuse international tension and making strong efforts to safeguard the lofty cause of peace. We always maintain that both the eastern and western parts of Europe constitute a major force in preventing war and safeguarding peace. We support dialogue between the two, the easing of tension, the development of relations so as to promote stability and security in Europe and the world as a whole.

During his stay in these countries, Zhao Ziyang will exchange views with their party and government leaders on the international and internal issues of common concern and on the further development of bilateral relations. The visit will also provide him with an opportunity to understand their successes in the socialist construction and learn from their experiences. China opens its doors to the whole world, the socialist countries included. Therefore, to increase the political, economic, scientific and technological and cultural co-operation with the five socialist countries in Eastern Europe is a major component of China’s open policy. We believe that through Zhao’s visit and the joint efforts of both sides, China’s friendly relations and co-operation with them will grow steadily and reach a new high.
Korean Leader Welcomed in China

Kim Il Sung was given a warm reception on his first visit to China in five years from May 21-26, 1987. On the first day, Kim was given four rousing welcomes by the Chinese Party and Government leaders and hundreds of well-wishers. Almost all of China’s top leaders turned out to talk with or meet him including Li Xiannian, Zhao Ziyang, and Deng Xiaoping.

In his talk with Kim on May 22, Chinese senior leader Deng Xiaoping told the top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), that “We know each other very well.” A Chinese Foreign Ministry official described the atmosphere of the two-hour meeting as "very cordial and warm."

In a speech at a state banquet held in Kim’s honour on May 21, China’s President Li Xiannian said that China firmly supports the reasonable proposals put forth by the DPRK to ease and stabilize the situation on the Korean Peninsula. The proposition advanced by Kim for the country’s peaceful reunification in the form of a confederation has, in particular, pointed out the correct direction and a feasible path for the settlement of the Korean issue.

Kim said at the welcoming banquet that the realization of the peaceful reunification and self-determination of Korea is a major issue closely linked with the maintenance of peace and security in Asia and the Pacific Region as well as the rest of the world.

Recently, Kim said, “We have put forward a new proposal of holding high-ranking political and military consultations between the north and the south. We have also urged turning the Korean Peninsula into a peaceful area free of nuclear weapons.”

However, he said, the United States and the South Korean authorities have still not made any positive responses to the proposals.

“If the United States and the South Korean authorities are truly willing to maintain a long-standing peace on the Korean Peninsula and achieve a just settlement of the Korean issue, they should start the dialogue with us and take practical steps to relax tension and eliminate the roots for nuclear wars,” Kim added.

Talking about Sino-Korean relations, President Li said that practices have cemented the great friendship and unity built up between the two countries on the basis of “Marxism, Leninism and proletarian internationalism.”

“The brotherly Chinese people, who have helped us in the past when our people were standing the test of hard times, are now actively supporting us in our attempt to gain a total victory of socialism and national reunification,” Kim said, adding that the Korean people have not
Kim said that Sino-Korean ties, which were “sealed in blood,” have stood all tests of history. The smooth advance of China’s drive towards the four modernizations is a great encouragement for the Korean people, he said.

In a three-hour talk with Kim on May 23, Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang told Kim that his trip to China to exchange views on certain major issues revealed the importance the Korean leader attached to Sino-Korean relations and his trust in the Chinese Communist Party.

The two leaders agreed that the friendship between the two parties and the two peoples will last from generation to generation—a mutual conviction of the Chinese and Korean Parties and the two peoples.

Briefing Zhao on the policies of the Korean party and government and its socialist construction, Kim emphasized the objective and the progress of his country's third seven-year plan for the development of the national economy.

Zhao expressed his belief that the Korean people will certainly realize their goals and continue to display their revolutionary spirit under arduous conditions.

Zhao told Kim about China’s present political and economic situation and China’s tentative plan for political reform.

The Chinese Premier said he is pleased to see the new development of the DPRK’s external relations and that the Korean comrades have become more active in international affairs.

Chinese senior leader Deng Xiaoping bade farewell to Kim on May 24 when the Korean leader ended his visit in Beijing and left by special train for Tianjin where he stayed two days and visited Tianjin Watch Factory and Tianjin’s new overpass. Kim left Tianjin on May 25 for home by train.

Peng Zhen on Open Policy & Reform

The problem at present is not that we have gone too far in opening to the outside world but that we have not done enough to allow the policy to invigorate the domestic economy,” said Peng Zhen, member of the political bureau of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee and chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress.

The reason why China hasn’t opened its door quite enough, remarked Peng, is that some of the basic material conditions of present China are falling short of demands of the open policy and it is also because of bureaucracy and inefficiency. With the improvement of work efficiency and the basic material conditions, the Chinese will open to the outside much further, said Peng.

The 85-year-old chairman made the statements during his inspection tours of Jiangxi, Guangdong and Fujian provinces from April 17 to May 18.

“When we look back at China’s history,” said Peng, “we will find that all the prosperous dynasties were those which were open to the outside; and, when we look around, we will find that developed countries in our own time are those that are open.”

As for China’s economic structure, Peng said to the local officials of Fujian Province, the problem is that in the past state centralized too much and exercised excessive and rigid control over local governments and enterprises. “Now we must decentralize, delegating power to lower levels. We must reform, and we must go all out. At the same time, we must open to the outside world in order to import and assimilate advanced foreign managerial experience and technology. Otherwise, we can’t build the four socialist modernizations,” said Peng.

Peng praised the Shenzhen and Zhuhai Special Economic Zones (SEZ), both in Guangdong Province, for their successes in opening to the rest of the world.

Shenzhen and Zhuhai were underdeveloped small towns at the end of the 1970s, and were picked as experimental zones to open to the outside. Now, after several
years of development, both have grown into prosperous cities, albeit controversial ones. Peng, as one of the top policy makers, gave his own judgement, saying that the decision and policies that the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee made to open the SEZ have proved to be correct.

"Now I see no signs of wilderness at Shenzhen I saw when I visited it in 1980," Peng said. "Also it's pleasing to see Zhuhai developing so rapidly."

"This also shows that China needs to intensify reforms and to open itself still wider to other parts of the world and further enliven its domestic economy," Peng said.

Upon hearing that some people were worried about the possible change of the policy of enriching people, Peng said, the policy as a whole will not and can not be changed. However, the authorities will adjust some of the specific policies, Peng explained to the local officials. The adjustment, Peng said, is for the sake of the improvement, which will be more beneficial to the economic development and making people richer.

Peng stressed that the policy of economic reform and opening to the outside world must be carried out under the condition of upholding the four cardinal principles (adhering to the socialist road, upholding the people's democratic dictatorship, the leadership of the Communist Party, and Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought).

Peng repeatedly stated that China must go all out to practise the planned socialist commodity economy on the basis of public ownership. At the same time, he said, "We must abandon those old traditions which are not suited to socialism."

More Attention to Youth Education—

China's Youth Ideological Educational Research Centre was established on May 19 in Beijing. As a non-governmental organization consisting of professional and amateur youth educational workers from various circles, the centre will focus its efforts on the study of ideological and educational work among young students.

On behalf of the CPC Central Committee, Song Renqiong, vice-chairman of the Central Advisory Commission, attended the opening ceremony and expressed his congratulations on the establishment of the centre.

In his speech, Song said that the state and the Party have always been concerned about the education of the younger generation and attached great importance to it. "We are paying more attention now than in any past period to the issue of ideological education among young people," he said, adding that the attention is not merely because of the student unrest in some cities at the end of last year or as a result of bourgeois liberal influences. Another more important reason, he said, is that the situation and the tasks China is now facing set higher demands on the young generation of the country.

Song stressed that the Party has consistently held that China's young people are bright and promising. "Young people are playing an important role in today's construction for socialist modernization. The future hope of our state and nation lies with them," he said. "This basic view of the Party will not, in the slightest degree, be changed due to various mistakes made by young people."

The vice-chairman said the correct political orientation should be given high priority while educators research the thinking of young people and do the ideological education. Ideological educators should adhere to the four cardinal principles (the socialist road, the people's democratic dictatorship, the leadership of the Party, and Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought—Ed) and to the principles of reform and opening to the outside world, he said.

Song noted that conditions under which young people of today are growing up and the tasks they are facing differ from those of the past. And their strong and weak points are also bearing the imprint of the times. "Therefore," he said, "the ideological education among young people should not be an empty sermon or formalism. The result of the education should be stressed."

Song pointed out, educators should not only publicize the Party's general and specific policies among young people but also answer the questions that young people have encountered. "A democratic channel should be established to promptly and accurately let the higher authorities know the opinions of young people and what they are thinking," he added. He said, "We should arouse everyone to research the work. And the research should not be concentrated only on the past or on domestic issues concerning the youth. It should be oriented towards the world and future issues."

"I believe the country's younger generation, under the care of the Party and people, can constantly overcome their own weak points and become qualified personnel who can shoulder the historical tasks," Song said.

Fire Fighting Gains More Confidence

The huge fire is still devouring forests in China's northern Heilongjiang Province, while about 450,000 firefighters continue their battle to prevent it from devastating nearby townships and the virgin forest in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

Some 25,000 people have been dispatched to hack firebreaks in an effort to seal off the wildfire. So far a 300-km-long and 150-metre-
wide belt has effectively controlled the eastern edge of the fire zone. In the west a 120-km-long firebreak is curbing the fire which once threatened Mohe, known as China’s “Arctic Town.” And to the south of the vast fire zone, more than 14,000 soldiers and local residents are working day and night to link up the firebreaks. Meanwhile the firemen are fighting the scorching flames in a bid to salvage more forest and win more time for belt hacking.

“When the project is completed, the forest fire is expected to be roughly under control, as long as there is no strong wind,” said an official from the Forestry Ministry.

On the northern bank of the Ergun River, which forms the boundary between the Soviet Union and Inner Mongolia of China, 1,200 forest rangers with walkie-talkies and windbreakers are keeping a close watch on another inferno pressing in from the east Baikal area in the Soviet Union, the official said.

So far, the Tahe, Mohe, Mangui and other residential areas are safely within firebreaks, he said.

However, the threat is far from eliminated, as the temperature gets higher, intense winds spring up from time to time. With dry branches and leaves everywhere, the extinguished fire may be rekindled at any time, let alone the fact that long fire fronts are still blazing.

Sources say that since the break out of the blaze on May 6, more than 750,000 cubic metres of timber storage and some 400,000 hectares of standing timber have been burnt. The damage has reduced the country's timber supply by 1.6 percent this year. The death toll so far is said to have exceeded 200.

If the fire front pushes on towards the southwest, it may threaten the forest in Inner Mongolia, where forest resources are rich and untouched. In the virgin forest lies China’s only reindeer farm and a national natural reserve inhabited by a large variety of rare wild animals. To save it from the conflagration, the central government has been mustering more troops and firefighting equipment and other supplies to the “front,” according to the official.

At the same time, relief efforts are intensified to keep the victims warm and fed. Wherever they are, there is sure to be free food, daily necessities and medical care, what is more, plenty of sympathy and ready hands.

Witnesses in Tahe say that while some 500 people are still fighting the fire at the front, their relatives are planting tens of thousands of saplings in the forest ruins. Soldiers are helping local people to build new homes. Trains loaded with timber are whisking to other parts of the country.

Still on alert, residents in the county town are keeping a “cool diet,” using no cooking fires so as to allay fears. Children have been seen reading and writing at schools, banks are opening on time, and trains running on schedule with firefighters, honey-mooners and peddlers with their sacks of vegetables on board.

According to the latest report from the frontline headquarters, all the blazing flames have been put out by 6:30 pm, May 26.

**Notice Seeking New HK Emblem & Flag**

A plea for design suggestions for an emblem and flag for the future Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has gone out to Chinese worldwide.

The notice was issued by the organizer, the Hong Kong Basic Law Drafting Committee.

The notice reads as follows: Notice by the Hong Kong Basic Law Drafting Committee of the People’s Republic of China asking for designs for an emblem and flag for Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (May 20, 1987).

Annex 1 to the Sino-British Joint Declaration on the Question of Hong Kong entitled “Elaboration by the Government of the People’s Republic of China of Its Basic Policies Regarding Hong Kong” said, “Apart from displaying the national flag and national emblem of the People’s Republic of China, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region may use a regional flag and emblem of its own.”

As the Hong Kong Basic Law will include an item about the regional emblem and flag, the Basic Law Drafting Committee (BLDC) is asking for design contributions.


Contributors: all Chinese including those in Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan and abroad as well as other residents of Hong Kong are welcome to contribute designs — no more than one each for the emblem and the flag, on paper 40 centimetres square per person. No designs will be returned. Copyright will be reserved by the State. A piece of paper carrying the contributor’s name, sex, age, occupation and address plus telephone number should be sent, together with the designs which should be carefully packed to avoid damage in the mail.

Mailing: Please post contributions as registered mail to Post Office Box 807, Beijing or GPO Box 138, Hong Kong.

Selection: A group made up of five members of the BLDC and six experts — three from the mainland and three from Hong Kong — will choose 26 designs for the emblem and flag from among the entries in the second quarter of next year and show them to the public. No contributions will be accepted from group members.

The group will then choose six designs from the 26 and delivered them to the BLDC in the last quarter of next year after its
members have made suggestions on modifying the designs, if necessary.

The BLDC will hold a secret ballot when convening to decide on its final choice.

This will be presented to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, by the end of 1988, together with the draft of the Hong Kong Basic Law. The final choice will have to be approved by the Congress.

Prize: The BLDC offers one first prize, five second prizes and 20 honorary prizes for the 26 entries winning the primary selection.

More Enterprises Leased in China

China had 10,000 small industrial and commercial enterprises leased out to individual workers, collective units or other enterprises in the first quarter this year, according to Xinhua.

The number of such enterprises to be leased in the six pilot cities, which are experimenting with the urban economic reform, is expected to reach 7,000 this year.

The first national seminar sponsored by the State Commission for Restructuring the Economy held recently in Shenyang, the capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province held that the leasing of enterprises complies with the principles of socialism and has wide prospects.

The leasing of the enterprises has resulted apparently in the promotion of their economic efficiency. In a group of 63 small industrial enterprises designated with a leasing period of one year in Shenyang, 27 of the 34 that had suffered losses before the leasing have gained profits so far this year.

Of the 100 commercial enterprises leased out in the city last year, the volume of their profits increased by 100 percent over the previous year.

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ECONOMIC

May 20

■ In the hope of becoming economically self-reliant, lamas in the Zhaxi Ihubo Temple in China's Tibetan Autonomous Region set up their own development corporation last week, the first business to be started by a Tibetan temple, according to Xinhua. Last year, the preparatory organization of the corporation set up a timber factory, a transportation network and shops.

SOCIAL

May 20

■ SOS Children's Village International, a home for orphans that opened last year, is completed in Tianjin. Construction on the village started in October 1985. It has a total floor space of 5,000 square metres in 29 buildings on an area of some 2.7 hectares. The village is funded by the SOS Children's Village International, the Chinese Government and individuals.

May 23

■ For the three days preceding May 23 torrents of rainwater rushed down mountains and swelled rivers, causing severe flooding in Guangdong Province. More than 158,000 hectares of farmland were swamped and more than 5,300 houses destroyed. Forty-eight are reported dead and at least 350,000 people have been evacuated to safe areas, Guangzhou Evening News reports.

CULTURAL

May 18

■ A leaf of unique tobacco is successfully crossbred out of ordinary tobacco and spinach in an experimental tobacco farm in Shifang County, Sichuan Province. This genetic breakthrough by the Chengdu Biology Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences has, for the first time, married two separate plants which are not the same species, genus, or family.

May 24

■ 101 oil paintings by 62 Chinese painters will be on an exhibition tour in nine Japanese cities including Tokyo, from May 29 to the end of August this year. Organized by the Art Gallery of China's Central Academy of Fine Arts and Japan's Modern Writers' Association, this exhibition includes famous Chinese names like Luo Gongliu, Wu Guanzhong, Jin Shanyi and Zhu Naizheng, and headed by painter Zhang Zuying, "This Chinese oil exhibition is the largest ever to neighbouring Japan," said Wen Lipeng, a head of the Central Institute of Fine Arts.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

May 18

■ Britain's Princess Margaret, arrives in Beijing today on a 10-day visit to the country at the invitation of the Chinese Government. Li Peng, China's vice-premier noted that the Princess has come to visit China "when Sino-British relations have never been so good."

May 23

■ Chinese Vice-Premier Wan Li meets with Iran's deputy Foreign Minister Shekh Islam, special envoy of the Iranian Prime Minister Hussein Musavi and his party in Beijing today. Wan expresses his concern over the recent tension in the gulf region and urges the two countries to stop their war and resolve their disputes on a fair and reasonable basis and under terms acceptable to both sides.
Japan

Creating 'Two Chinas' in Kokario Case

The Japanese government defending the court ruling on the Kokario dormitory case has violated the Sino-Japanese Joint Statement and the norms of international law. It is tantamount to creating "two Chinas," which has caused anxiety on the mainland.

Defending the court ruling on the Kokario dormitory case, the Japanese government recently reaffirmed its position that Japan upholds the "division of powers among three branches"—the legislative, the executive and judicial, and that it cannot change the said court ruling, as it is impossible for the government to intervene in judicial organs.

This position on the part of the Japanese government is tantamount to creating "two Chinas."

The five-storey Kokario building in question, located in Kyoto, was bought by a previous Chinese government delegation in Japan with Chinese people's money after World War II and has since become China's state property to be used as a dormitory for Chinese students in Japan.

With normal diplomatic relations established between the People's Republic of China and Japan in 1972, Japan is obliged to turn over the property rights of the Kokario dormitory to the Government of the People's Republic of China.

In October 1977, the Osaka Higher Court accepted an appeal of the "Republic of China," or Taiwan, claiming the property rights of the dormitory. This reversed a decision made by the Kyoto Court a month earlier not to accept any lawsuit on the Kokario case filed by the Taiwan authorities. Then in February 1987, the Osaka Higher Court went so far as to rule that the Kokario dormitory, China's state property, belongs to the Taiwan authorities.

The Kokario case is in no way an issue concerning the property rights of a building, nor an ordinary case of civil lawsuit. It is an important political problem of whether or not the Japanese government, including Japan's judicial organizations, observe the Sino-Japanese Joint Statement, the Sino-Japanese Treaty of Peace and Friendship, and other agreements between the two countries. No Japanese judicial department whatsoever should be allowed to violate the statement, treaty or agreements signed between the governments of China and Japan and to infringe upon Chinese sovereignty. Therefore, the ruling on the Kokario case made by the Osaka court is a political error incompatible with law. The Japanese court accepted the appeal made by the Taiwan authorities in the name of the "Republic of China" and regarded the Taiwan authorities as "government." Such treatment was clearly not one pertinent to anything civilian. Rather, it was an act suggesting an attempt to create "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan."

It is only natural that the case has caused anxieties in China. However, whenever the Chinese government requested that the Japanese government handle the Kokario case in accordance with the spirit and principles of the Sino-Japanese Joint Statement, the Japanese government invariably tried to shirk its responsibility. By using the so-called "division of powers among the three branches" as a shield, it claimed that it is not proper to intervene in the judicial departments, and that it could do nothing more than "persistently explain to the Chinese side the principle of the division of powers among the three branches."

As a matter of fact, the "reason" presented is sheer pretext. It is known to all that in any country where powers are divided among the three branches, the government is always responsible for foreign relations, and Japan is no exception. Article 73 of the Japanese constitution provides that the power of handling foreign relations rests with the Japanese cabinet. Therefore, in diplomatic affairs, Japan is not a state whose three branches of power go their own separate ways. This being the case, is it not a violation of Japan's constitution to deny the government's responsibility for the Kokario case under the pretext of the "division of powers among the three branches"?

Moreover, in the many years of contacts between China and Japan, there have been a number of instances of treatment of property rights in accordance with the principles that should be followed. For example, on the instruction of the later Japanese Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira, a student dormitory in Tokyo previously known as "Jenrin student union building" was renamed the "Japan-China Friendship Building" and rebuilt with funds from both China and Japan to accommodate Chinese students there. Another example is that in 1976 the Yokohama judicial agency turned over to the People's Republic of China an estate which was originally registered in the name of the "Republic of China." The judicial agency explicitly pointed out that "the reason for the change is that Japan and China established their diplomatic relations on September 29, 1972." In these cases, in one and the same Japan, the "division
of powers among the three branches” did not at all impede a proper treatment of property rights by the Japanese government. But today the Japanese authorities are defending the erroneous ruling in the Kokario case. How can one be trustworthy if one’s criteria change from time to time? What explanation can be made for the performance of the Japanese government if it is not for the lack of sincerity in living up to the treaties and agreements signed between the two countries?

Fifteen years have elapsed since normal diplomatic relations were established between China and Japan. During this period, great progress has been made in bilateral relations in political and economic fields and in personnel exchange as well. However, it is regrettable that recent years have witnessed a number of difficult problems imposed on China by Japan in bilateral relations. The Japanese ministry of education in

textbook revision has distorted the historical facts about Japanese aggression against China. Japanese leaders have visited Yasukuni Shrine. Some Diet members have tried to create “two Chinas” by paying tribute to the “virtues” of Chiang Kai-shek. All this cannot but make one suspect that it is no accident that the Japanese authorities try to exonerate themselves from responsibility for the faulty ruling in the Kokario case on the grounds of “division of powers among the three branches.”

It is necessary to note that the Chinese people treasure the friendly relations between China and Japan, two close neighbours separated only by a strip of water. That is why they cannot turn a blind eye to the few incidents created by the Japanese side in violation of the Sino-Japanese Joint Statement to the detriment of the friendship between the two countries.

by Zhang Huanli

SOUTH AFRICA

‘Linkage’ Formula Under Fire

A recent UN conference on Namibia again rejected South Africa’s linkage of Namibian independence with the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

An extraordinary plenary meeting of the United Nations Council for Namibia was held May 18 in Luanda, capital of Angola. During this meeting, representatives from many countries, including China, strongly condemned the occupation of Namibia by South Africa and refuted Pretoria’s proposition that the independence of Namibia must be linked to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda denounced the linkage as “an irrelevance and gross interference” in the internal affairs of Angola. In addition, he urged the United States also to abandon its insistence on linking Namibia’s independence with the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. By so doing, he said, “the Reagan administration has nothing at all to lose.”

President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of the host country, Angola, said that like the Middle East and Central America, southern Africa has become a region of serious conflicts and that in Africa this was the result of South Africa’s continued occupation of Namibia, intensified repression at home and increased aggression against the frontline states. He pledged the Angolan people’s international obligation to provide political and material support to the Namibian people in

their struggle for liberation and independence.

President of the South West Africa People’s Organization (SWAPO) Sam Nujoma declared “no amount of brutal tyranny by the Pretoria regime will reverse the forward march of the liberation struggle in Namibia.” He strongly criticized certain Western powers for “holding Namibia’s independence to ransom in pursuit of their own selfish ideological, economic and strategic interests.”

Nujoma called on the UN Council for Namibia to continue to expose the atrocities committed by the South African occupation authorities in Namibia, step up the campaign for the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa, intensify pressure on the US government to abandon the linkage policy, and co-operate with non-government organizations in mobilizing international assistance for the Namibian people’s struggle.

Zhao Zhenkui, China’s representative at the meeting, praised SWAPO for its perseverance in the liberation struggle and condemned South Africa’s insistence on the linkage formula with the backing of one big power. “The obstinate insistence on this linkage by the South African authorities is designed to win time in order to reinforce their colonial and racist rule over Namibia,” he said. With a view to carrying out the mandate given it by the General Assembly of the UN and effecting the early independence of Namibia, he said, the UN Council for Namibia should make efforts in the following areas: first, continue exposing and condemning the South African authorities’ conspiracy of delaying the implementation of UN Resolution 435 under the pretext of “linkage” and be ready to face illegal South African ruses such as unilaterally declaring a sham independence for Namibia; second, continue mobilizing the international community to render still more moral

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and material support to the Namibian people and the frontline states; third, call on the UN Security Council to move effectively in imposing sanctions against South Africa in accordance with the relevant provisions in Chapter 7 of the UN Charter; and finally, increase consultations with the governments, parliamentarians and non-governmental organizations of major Western countries that have influence on South Africa, and urge them to impose further sanctions on South Africa.

An appeal unanimously adopted by the Council noted that the UN Security Council "has been prevented by some of its permanent members from taking effective measures to secure implementation of its own plan," namely the 1978 Resolution 435 on Namibian independence. "Comprehensive and mandatory sanctions are the only remaining peaceful means of bringing about the genuine independence of Namibia," said the appeal. It urged all states, institutions and individuals to render through SWAPO increased assistance of every kind to the Namibian people in their struggle for independence and to the frontline states in southern Africa in their efforts to defend their sovereignty and territorial integrity against aggression, destabilization and subversion by the racist regime of South Africa.

by Ye Zhixiong

WESTERN EUROPE

Double Zero Option Needs Response

West European countries, which have been active in promoting US-Soviet negotiation on disarmament, are hesitant to offer their opinion on the possibility of eliminating both medium-range and shorter-range missiles from Europe.

West European countries have found it difficult to make a ready response to the Soviet proposal of removing all shorter-range missiles (the 500 to 1000 kilometres range) from Europe — the so-called second "zero option" — put forward by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in mid-April. While continuing to express their unanimous support for the first "zero option" — eliminating all medium-range missiles (1000 to 5000 kilometres range) from Europe, they appear to be cautious on whether they are for or against the second "zero option."

It was not until May 14 that Britain made its first comprehensive response to the Soviet proposal, saying it would agree to abolish intermediate- and short-range missiles from Europe if conditions to safeguard its security were met. The conditions include strict verification measures, the exclusion of third party systems — referring to the 72 Pershing 1A missiles in Federal Germany with nuclear warheads under US control, and the abolition of US and Soviet short-range missiles worldwide instead of just in Europe.

The French government has refrained from announcing its stand regarding the settlement of the short-range missiles issue in Europe. Although French President Francois Mitterrand said on May 20 that he agreed in principle to the second "zero option," a French government spokeswoman, when interviewed, said that President Mitterrand's remarks represented only his "personal sensibility" rather than France's formal stand. She said the French government will not announce its stand on the short-range missiles until West Germany and other West European countries make their response.

On May 15, Federal German Chancellor Helmut Kohl issued a hasty statement saying that nuclear disarmament talks should also cover missiles with a range of up to 1000 kilometres. Yet he avoided disclosing West Germany's stand on the zero-option settlement of short-range missiles. Among West European allies, the Kohl government has been the most active in trying to form a West European coalition to prevent the United States from accepting the second "zero option" on short-range missiles in Europe.

If the United State and the Soviet Union reached an agreement on eliminating missiles ranging from 500 to 5000 kilometres, Bonn reasoned the Soviets would eliminate the threat of US missiles in Europe and Europe would be rid of Soviet missiles. However, missiles of under 500 kilometres would be concentrated in the two Germanies, and if a partial nuclear war breaks out, all European victims would be Germans.

The recent NATO defence ministers' meeting (May 14-15) showed that the United States and some allies want to expand their short-range missiles in West Germany after the "zero-zero option" is reached. Kohl's purpose to take the missiles of under 500 kilometres into account is to force other European nations into sharing the danger posed by the nuclear weapons that would remain in Europe after a double zero option agreement is reached.

However, West Germany seemed isolated in its opposition. Kohl's May 15 statement demonstrated his intention to change the country's image as a stumbling block in the US-Soviet arms talks, indicating that West Germany might accept the double zero option.
It is interesting to notice that only a year ago Western Europe was urging the two superpowers to undertake serious negotiation. But now it is the United States and the Soviet Union that press West European countries to accept the results of their negotiations. Soviet leader Gorbachev asked Paris, London and Bonn to make their contribution to removing missiles from Europe. Washington, concerned about the hesitation of its allies, asked them to make a decision regarding the zero settlement of short-range missiles within 15 days.

The current situation confronting Western Europe is unprecedented. The security of West European countries has relied on the nuclear protection of the United States since World War II. Even France, which pursues independent defence, seeks to ally with the United States. The removal of US missiles from Europe would result in the decrease in the strategic link between the United States and Western Europe. The US nuclear protection would become uncertain while the independent nuclear power of Britain and France would be threatened. The agreement on the zero settlement of intermediate- and short-range missiles, if reached, would possibly lead to the non-nuclearization of Europe, exposing West European countries to the threat of the Soviet Union, which enjoys absolute superiority in conventional weapons. That's why the proposal of double "zero option," which would mean a decrease in US military presence in Western Europe, encourages West European countries to become more prudent in regard to the two superpowers' negotiation on missiles in Europe, or as they put it, on the security of Europe. Britain, France and West Germany have been involved in negotiations to try to find a common stand.

by Xin Zong

FIJI

Abrupt Changes in Political Situation

Since a military coup took place in Fiji on May 14, the political situation there remains uncertain.

Fiji's Governor-General Ratu Penaia Ganilau and coup leader Lieutenant Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka have appealed to the Fijian people on May 20 to end the violence in the tropical paradise. Since Rabuka, a native Fijian, led a lightning military coup and kidnapped ethnic Indian Prime Minister Timoci Bavadra and all his cabinet members on May 14, the ethnic Indian population of Fiji has begun to hold demonstrations against the self-imposed government. Violent rioting erupted in central Suva, capital of Fiji. On May 20 hundreds of aboriginal Fijians went on the rampage, attacking members of the Indian community and their business vehicles, harassing journalists who tried to cover the riot which ended after several hours and resulted in scores of injuries and arrests.

Fiji is an island country in the South Pacific and its position is of strategic significance. Suva is one of the major harbours and the communication hub of this region. It is the residence of the Bureau of the South Pacific Economic Cooperation. A former British colony, Fiji won independence in 1970, but it is still a member of the Commonwealth.

For a long time the political situation had been stable in Fiji, a country famous for its tourist development. This military coup is the first in Fiji's history. It is reported that the news of the Fijian military coup has shaken the South Pacific region. New Zealand, Australia, Britain, India and the United States issued statements, condemning the military coup and demanding that the democratic government be restored as soon as possible. New Zealand and Australia have also sent their warships to cruise the sea around Fiji.

International observers note that the military coup in Fiji has arisen from acute racial contradictions. Last year's census showed that Fiji's population of 714,500, was made up of 48.6 percent Indians, 46.2 percent Fijians and 5.1 percent other races. The Fijian people are the major land owners and engage in agriculture. The Indians mainly engage in industry and commerce. The Fijian army is made up of 90 percent ethnic Fijians and totals about 1,800 men. Since its independence the Alliance Party representing the Fijians has ruled the country. In April the National Federation Party of Indians won victory in the general elections and formed a coalition government with the Labour Party. The Fijians felt that the new coalition government could not represent their interests and held demonstrations, demanding a revision of the constitution so as to maintain their leading role in the government.

The Indians started to hold protest activities and closed their shops. So far Rabuka's military government has received no formal recognition from any foreign country. Under such circumstances Governor-General Ratu Penaia Ganilau decided to dissolve parliament and hold a general election. The announcement was made at the end of a four-day meeting of the nation's Great Council of Chiefs, a supreme body consisting of the most influential traditional leaders. It agreed on an 18-member council of advisers as the interim administration for the island nation.

by Chang Qing

JUNE 1, 1987
China Hopes to Boost Sino-US Relations

During his recent visit to the United States, Yang Shangkun, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of China and leader of the Chinese Government Delegation, reaffirmed China's policy of reform, opening to the outside world and invigorating the domestic economy, its independent foreign policy of peace and its desire to develop friendly relations with the United States. He also spoke at length on the question of Taiwan, further explaining China's policy towards the issue.

Following are excerpts from his speeches at the dinner hosted by the US Council on Foreign Relations on May 21, at the welcoming banquet given by the Chinese community in Los Angeles on May 25 and at the welcoming dinner hosted by World Affairs Council in Los Angeles on May 26.

The message I have brought to you today is that China's policy of reform, opening to the outside world and invigorating the domestic economy will not change, China's independent foreign policy of peace will not change, and China's desire to strengthen and develop its friendly relations with the United States will not change.

Domestic Policy

Why is it that China's policy of reform, opening to the outside world and invigorating the domestic economy will not and cannot change? This is because:

First, this policy is formulated after we have learned lessons from a century of humiliations in our modern history and from our experiences over the past 30 years or more since the founding of New China. The profound lesson is that self-seclusion or blindcopying of others' experiences will inevitably mean slow development and prolonged backwardness for China. We had paid our price for that. We resolutely put an end to self-seclusion or blind copying eight years ago.

Secondly, our policy has brought about national stability and unity, steady and sustained economic growth and marked improvement in the material and cultural life of the overwhelming majority of our people in both urban and rural areas. The people of all nationalities in China sincerely welcome and entirely support this policy which benefits both the country and the people.

Thirdly, our policy is not the whim of any individual, but a decision made collectively by the Party and the Government to meet the needs of historical development and the wishes of the people.

Since some foreign friends do not have sufficient understanding of the situation in China, they still have misgivings as to whether China's policy will change. As a matter of fact, our current policy has always embraced two aspects, first, adherence to the socialist road and upholding of the leadership of the Communist Party of China, and second, reform and opening to the outside world. All these have been written into our Constitution and government documents and reiterated all along by our leaders. Sometimes, we stress reform and opening to the outside world, but it does not mean that socialism is no longer adhered to. And sometimes we stress adhering to the socialist road and upholding the Party's leadership, it does not mean that the policy of reform and opening to the outside world is abandoned.

These two aspects are an integral whole and neither can be dispensed with.

In a word, the continuity and stability of China's current policy resides in its correctness and rationality. This policy should not and will not change. If there is to be any change in the future, it will only mean that the policy will become more mature and further improved with the passage of time and the accumulation of our experiences. At the 13th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in the coming fall, a programme for political structural reform will be discussed and formulated. This will be a major step. It is required by the deepening economic structural reform and will in turn facilitate further economic restructuring.

Foreign Policy

The Chinese people love peace. China pursues an independent foreign policy of peace and takes the following as its underlying task in international affairs, namely, to oppose hegemonism, safeguard world peace and develop friendly relations and co-operation with other countries so as to promote common prosperity. What the world in general and China in particular need most is peace and
Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, namely, mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence.

For the above reason, we judge international issues on the merits of each case and will not decide our relations with other countries on the basis of social system or ideology. Nor will we enter into alliance with or establish strategic relations with any big power.

For the above reason, we favour the improvement of North-South relations and the promotion of South-South co-operation so as to bring about the steady growth of the world economy and common prosperity.

Sino-US Relations

We are pleased to note that in the 15 years since the issuance of the Sino-US Shanghai Communique, the friendly relations and co-operation between our two countries have witnessed considerable progress. The high-level exchange of visits between leaders of the two countries has contributed to the growing Sino-US understanding and friendship. Our exchanges in the political, economic, cultural, scientific-technological and military fields have increased steadily. The city-to-city and people-to-people contacts between the two countries have also expanded continuously. Despite differences of one kind or another between us, we share common or similar views on many major issues. The present Sino-US relations owe much to the joint efforts made by the Governments and peoples of China and the United States. The experience over the last 15 years shows that the three Sino-US joint communiques constitute the foundation of our relations. When the principles embodied in these communiques are strictly abided by, Sino-US relations will develop smoothly; if not, our relations will suffer setback and damage. As is known to all, the Taiwan question has long remained the main obstacle to the development of Sino-US relations. It has been the cause of several twists and turns in our relations since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States. Sino-US relations have been fairly stable on the whole in recent years. However, on the Taiwan question, violations of the “one China” principle have occurred from time to time. This should merit the close attention of all those who wish to see further growth in Sino-US relations. For failure to handle the Taiwan question properly will not only make it difficult to ensure the long-term and stable development of our relations, but are also bound to cause new twists and turns.

Now I would like to speak on Sino-US economic relations. There exists a broad scope for mutually beneficial co-operation between China and the United States, and the potential of our economic co-operation is quite large. To fully tap this potential, China and the United States need to make further joint efforts. The Chinese Government is taking steps to improve its foreign trade system, speed up legislation concerning foreign investment and create a better investment climate so as to provide more preferential and favourable terms to foreign entrepreneurs and investors in their economic and technical co-operation with China. At the same time, we also hope that the US Government and the American business community will on their part make efforts to overcome certain difficulties and problems in the development of Sino-US economic relations, such as easing restrictions on China’s export to the United States, relaxing control over transfer of American technologies to China, and enhancing the competitiveness of American
considerable deficits in its trade promote the growth of our Chinese commodities so as to reduce China's trade deficit and solve the deficit problem by reducing import. But we hope that the American market will absorb more Chinese commodities on China's market. A general review of Sino-US trade relations in the last 15 years shows that China has long run bilateral trade, nor do we want to be faced with new threat of more Chinese commodities so as to reduce China's trade deficit and promote the growth of our bilateral trade. In a sense, more Chinese exports to the United States mean more American commodities on China's market. We hope that the industrial and business communities in the United States will make greater efforts for developing our economic relations. We are convinced that so long as China and the United States both see our economic relations in the long-term perspective and observe the principle of equality and mutual benefit, the future will be bright for the further development of the economic co-operation between the two countries.

The Chinese Government attaches great importance to the friendship and co-operation between China and the United States and is ready to contribute its share to the further development of this friendship and co-operation.

The Taiwan Issue

In addition to China's modernization, another question weighing on our mind is the national reunification.

With the settlement of the questions of Hong Kong and Macao, the Taiwan question has become more prominent on our agenda.

To settle the Taiwan question according to the concept of "one country, two systems" will do Taiwan only good and no harm. As a special administrative region of the People's Republic of China, Taiwan will enjoy a high degree of autonomy. It may retain its own administrative system, its own troops and its independent judicial power. The mainland will not send personnel to Taiwan, neither troops nor administrative staff. The Taiwan authorities and representatives of various circles may join China's national political bodies for discussion of state affairs and decision-making. In economic affairs, Taiwan as a special administrative region may have its own budget and will be under no financial obligation to the mainland. It may continue its foreign trade as usual and maintain its economic and trade relations with foreign countries. All the economic rights and interests of foreign investors in Taiwan will also remain intact.

Taiwan is quite strong technologically and experienced in foreign trade while the mainland has rich resources, a huge market and a rapidly developing economy. Consequently, if the mainland and Taiwan carry out exchange and co-operation to make up for each other's deficiencies, it will surely contribute to the prosperity and economic development on both sides of the Taiwan Straits.

We also maintain that before the ultimate peaceful reunification of China, there should be exchanges of trade, mail, air and shipping services between the mainland and Taiwan. Since people on both sides of the Taiwan Straits are Chinese, why can't they do business and have contacts with each other freely? Such exchanges should be conducted even if it is out of pure humanitarian consideration of enabling numerous separated families on both sides of the Taiwan Straits to be reunited. We will make our utmost efforts to this end in the belief that the people in Taiwan will make corresponding efforts. It is our hope that the Taiwan authorities will take a reasonable approach in this regard. We also hope that all people friendly to China and concerned with peace and stability in Asia will understand and support our efforts.

The Taiwan question is also closely linked to Sino-US relations. It is our hope that both the Chinese and US sides will strictly abide by the principles set forth in the three Sino-US joint communiques. And we hope that the US Government will adhere to the principle of recognizing that there is only one China and that the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government of China, so that it may contribute its share to the great cause of the peaceful reunification of China. We are convinced that peaceful settlement of the Taiwan question will further enhance Sino-US friendship and co-operation by eliminating the only obstacle in the way of Sino-US relations and turning negative elements into positive ones. In this sense, both China and the United States will benefit from the peaceful settlement of the Taiwan question.

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China-E. Europe Trade Expanding

by Our Correspondent Zhang Zeyu

The value of the trade between China and the German Democratic Republic, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Bulgaria is expected to reach 3.9 billion Swiss francs this year, said an official of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade.

"In 1985 China and the five East European countries signed a five-year governmental trade agreement for 1986-90," said the official. "The agreed trade value is 20 billion Swiss francs, averaging 4 billion Swiss francs a year.

The value of the trade in 1986 was 4.2 billion Swiss francs.

"In 1987, the value will drop somewhat, because China has reduced its imports of automobiles, machinery, instruments and metres due to change in demand, and because the five East European countries have reduced their imports of Chinese textiles, other light industrial goods and handicrafts. It can be expected that through efforts by both sides, the targets as set in agreement will be fulfilled."

Mix of Imports and Exports

In recent years, said the official, our trading partners in Eastern Europe have greatly improved their industrial technology. Their products are equal to the West's middle-quality products. They suit China's needs. For example, the refrigerator vans, the cars and rolling stock from Democratic Germany, the power station equipment from Czechoslovakia and Poland, the shoe-making equipment from Czechoslovakia and the mining equipment from Poland are all useful here. China also needs to import aluminium from Hungary, copper from Poland and lead from Bulgaria.

China's farm and sideline products, minerals, textiles and other light industrial products, and native produce meet our partners' demands."

The trade is conducted on the principles of equality and mutual benefit and help. The mix of imports and exports between China and Poland is representative of the whole trade.

According to the agreement, the value of the China-Poland trade for the period should be 6.5 billion Swiss francs, and the trade balanced. China's imports include raw materials and semi-finished products (40 percent). These are rolled steel, copper, copper bars, soda ash, caustic soda, high-pressure polythene and steel core aluminium cables. The rest is machinery and electronic products and complete sets of equipment (about 60 percent). These include vehicles of various kinds, coal-mining equipment, train cars and two boilers for a power station with a generating capacity of 300,000 kw, two 360,000 kw-generating sets, and a coal washery with an annual capacity of 4 million tons. Major Chinese exports to Poland include farm and sideline products, minerals and other semi-finished products, which account for about 5.5 percent. They include rice, maize, soybeans, frozen pork, tea, cotton, grey cotton cloth, tungsten ores, antimony, and paraffin wax. The rest include textiles and other light industrial products, handicrafts and native and animal by-products (about 45 percent).

Economic and Technological Co-operation

The development of economic and technological co-operation between China and the five East European countries has passed through two stages. Prior to 1984, there were just a few co-operative projects involved and they constituted a very small part of the total trade. In March and April 1984, Chinese government economic delegation headed by Zhu Rongji, vice-minister of the State Economic Commission, visited the five countries, opening new horizons for co-operation by inviting them to render support to China's efforts to technologically upgrade its old enterprises. During the visit, the two sides agreed on a few technological import programmes. The co-operation is mainly in machine-building, electronics and the food, textile and other light industries.

A number of projects jointly undertaken have already gone into operation and satisfactory economic returns have been achieved. For instance, the shoe-making equipment and technology imported from Czechoslovakia and the bottling lines from Democratic Germany, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria have been installed in existing Chinese enterprises. The technological co-operation between the Tianjin Forklift Plant and Bulgaria is improving China-made forklift trucks.

China has also imported from the five countries some fairly advanced equipment and technology. For example, the technology for producing open-end spinning machines from Czechoslovakia for China's textile machinery industry; the technology for making refrigerator vans (from the German Democratic Republic), and the technology for producing Tatra 815 15-ton trucks (from Czechoslovakia) — all this facilitates the development of
China’s trains and heavy-duty trucks.

The edible casings production equipment and technology imported by Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region from Poland, the carrier telephone systems and equipment for renovating the Beijing-Datong power transmission cable project imported by the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (from Hungary), the bulb and automotive lamp production lines imported by Lanzhou city and Hubei Province, the four 200,000-kw thermal electric generators for the Shanxi Shentou Thermal Power Plant (from Czechoslovakia), and the electrostatic powder spray-coating technology and equipment imported by the Changchun Enamel Works—all this is advanced by the international standards of the 70s and 80s.

The prospects are bright for cooperation in the business of processing with supplied materials, compensatory trade, technological consultancy and joint operation.

Retrospects

China and the five East European countries all practise socialism and their trading relationship goes back 30-odd years. Although it has not been steady, the general trend has been a rising trade volume.

From 1951 to 1960, the trade increased annually. For instance, the value of bilateral trade between China and the German Democratic Republic was worth 48 million roubles in 1951. By 1960, the figure was 240 million roubles, making each the second largest trade partner to the other.

Between 1961 and 1963, trade between China and the five countries dropped for reasons known to all. From 1964 to 1979, it grew but very slowly.

Not until after 1980, the trade took another upswing thanks to China’s open policy. In 1980, the trade value with Democratic Germany reached 658 million Swiss francs, an all-time high. In 1981, as China reduced its imports of machinery and electronics goods and shifted its emphasis onto raw materials, the volume of trade between the two countries was almost halved. It began to increase again after 1982, reaching 624 million Swiss francs in 1985. The reason here was that China increased its imports of machinery and electronics goods again from Democratic Germany.

The official said trade between China and the five East European countries will develop steadily in the future because they apply themselves to socialist construction and barter trade can be easily arranged. This can bring great benefit to China which has been suffering a shortage of foreign exchange. He expressed the hope that both sides study new areas and look for new forms of cooperation so as to expand their economic and trade relations.

Advertising Comes Into Its Own

by Our Correspondent Liu Jianjun

When night falls, downtown Beijing is ablaze with flashing neon lights fixed on huge advertising billboards lining the streets, while behind the walls of quiet courtyards, prime-time viewers are adjusting themselves to the frequent commercials that publicize a host of commodities ranging from Chinese toothpaste to American aeroplanes and Japanese televisions. In fact, many Chinese have already acquired the habit of deciding their future purchases by comparing various products’ advertisements.

Advertising is far from being as ubiquitous in China as it is in the West, but it is rapidly becoming part and parcel of the country’s economic life.

For a very long time advertising was nowhere to be seen in China. Not a single advertising company was in operation, and many younger people had no idea what an advertisement looked or sounded like. It was not until 1979 that advertising began to emerge as a new trade in the country’s fledgling commodity economy.

The Comeback

Today, the Chinese Advertising Association (CAA) and the China Foreign Economic Relations and
Trade Advertising Association (CFERTAA) together boast 4,000
member organizations, and have
sponsored many seminars and
exhibitions. Many universities
have opened advertising courses
as part of their curricula.

Advertising in the service of
China's economic exchanges with
foreign countries is growing too.
According to Wang Bo, secretary-
general of CFERTAA, before
1979 there were only a few
companies in big cities who were
in foreign-trade-related advertis­ing
and they were limited to
providing overseas customers with
catalogues and had a meagre
business volume of US$4 million.
Since 1979, however, advertising
for international trade has been
thriving, with its business volume
Today, every province, municip­
ality or autonomous region
(except Tibet) has set up its own
foreign economic relations and
trade advertising company. These
companies maintain regular con­
tacts with hundreds of counter­
parts around the world and are
using media abroad to publicize
Chinese commodities. America’s
Time magazine and the Financial
Times in Britain, for example,
often run Chinese commercials.

The CFERTAA often conducts
exchanges with foreign counter­
parts. In June, the association will
co-operate with South, a British
monthly, to sponsor a Third
World advertising conference in
Beijing.

The CAA, established in 1983,
has also been active in intern­
ational exchanges. At the 30th
International Advertising Confer­
ence held in the United States last
June, representatives from CAA
and CFERTAA reached agree­
ment on China’s participation in
the International Advertising
Association and on the name of
Taiwan’s membership. CAA and
CFERTAA representatives also
attended an Asian advertising
conference in Thailand last year,
where China’s participation in the
Asian Advertising Confederation
was welcomed. The Chinese
branch of the International
Advertising Association was
inaugurated on May 12, and the
Chinese branch of the Asian
Advertising Confederation will
soon be set up in Beijing.

Today, in addition to
CFERTAA, Chinese newspapers,
radio and television can run
commercials for foreign com­
panies on their own. Japanese
companies account for 60 percent
of the business in this category and
they are followed by companies in
Hong Kong, the United States, the
Federal Republic of Germany, the
Netherlands and Switzerland.
These commercials have acquain­
ted the Chinese public with
famous company names such as
Hitachi, Toshiba, Toyota, Phil­
lips, Kodak and Nestle. The
Beijing Advertising Corporation
alone grossed more than US$5
million last year from running ads
for foreign companies.

The Chinese public welcomes
foreign commercials because they
bring information about new
technology and new products. For
foreign businesses, these ads help
open the Chinese market. The
insecticide produced by the
Japanese company Sumitomo
Chemical, for instance, has gained
a market among Chinese farmers
through TV commercials.

Socialist China bans unsavoury
advertisments or ones that break
Chinese law. In Beijing, for
example, advertising boards are
banned at Tiananmen Square,
along Changan Boulevard, at the
Beijing Airport and Railway
Station, and in the embassy area,
public parks and non-commercial
areas. There is some suspicion that
this is to restrict foreign businesses or even linked to the current effort to stem bourgeois liberalization. But a Beijing official rejected this, pointing out that similar legislation existed in other countries. For instance, commercials are banned at Versailles in France, Buckingham Palace in Britain and the White House in the United States. Besides, he said, the Beijing rules are not directed against foreigners alone—domestic businesses are also required to observe them. The official added that foreign businesses are welcome to run as many ads in China as they like.

The significance of advertising is sinking in. "Run an ad somewhere, and you can expect production to go up in no time," said a Beijing factory salesman. This may be slightly exaggerated, but its essence is beyond dispute.

A steel wire factory in Hebei Province was suffering low sales. After running an advertisement in a newspaper, the factory received over 4,000 orders from all over the country, totalling 21,000 tons of wire. With an annual production capacity of 3,000 tons, the factory managers had to raise funds to expand production.

Virtually every newspaper or journal, radio or television station in China has received letters which tell with gratitude how advertisements helped solve business difficulties.

Today, all factories put aside considerable sums for advertising. In the atmosphere of intensifying competition which has accompanied the introduction of the system whereby a factory must itself market most of its products, shunning advertising is like shunning a vast number of potential buyers.

When advertising staged its comeback in China a few years ago, it was mostly for capital goods. Now more and more ads for consumer goods have appeared. A young man said that he bought his furniture suite after reading a commercial of a Beijing trade fair. A patient who was recently relieved from long years of suffering from toothache said the cure was a kind of toothpaste he got to know of through a newspaper advertisement.

For, the country's numerous young people looking for an ideal spouse, advertisements serve as a good go-between. One Beijing young woman ran such an announcement in a newspaper. In five months she received 1,236 responses, 288 from engineers and 170 from university teachers. She soon chose her husband. A survey of 80 out of the 200 people who published marriage requests in a Beijing newspaper showed that 32 of them had married or were in a relationship, 11 were going out regularly, and the others were still waiting for replies.

No Puffing In Ads

While advertising is burgeoning in China, malpractices are being discovered. Some factories, for instance, in their advertisements pass shoddy products off as quality ones. So the State Council has promulgated China's first legislation concerning commercial advertising, which stipulates that the content of advertisements should be accurate and easy to understand; no deception is allowed. In enforcing its implementation, the authorities check all commercials on a yearly basis. Stern measures have been taken against those who run misleading advertisements.

The State Administration for Industry and Commerce has also drafted a dozen special rules and regulations governing advertisements for medicines, alcoholic drinks and cigarettes, as well as news stories serving as advertisements and events sponsorship. In Beijing and Tianjin, all ads must mention the price of the product.

Apart from government control, commercial advertising is also monitored by groups organized by advertising companies and consumers. But despite all these efforts, misleading ads still appear from time to time. Therefore, to establish a commodity inspection system and maintain the authenticity of advertisements still require long-term strenuous efforts.

**Historical Background**

Commercial advertising in China dates back to the Zhou Dynasty (1066-771 BC). At the time there were daytime trade fairs which attracted people and goods from all quarters and lasted until all the goods were sold. Commodity displays and street hawking were the main form of advertising. In the years that followed, with the growth in commodity production and exchanges, merchants learnt to use advertising such as high-flying banners, signboards, shop decorations and brochures to promote their products.

In *Riverside Scene on Qingming Festival*, a Song Dynasty (960-1279) painting, shops have signboards of many shapes and colours bearing the names of the shops or the commodities on sale. Hawkers became sort of "street players," attracting buyers by using their distinctive trademarks; a sweet seller, for example, tooted a bamboo flute along the streets.

However, the traditional contempt for commerce in China has
for a long time hampered the growth of advertising and commodity production. Typical of this is the saying that "a good liquor is a good liquor no matter how remote the distillery is." It was not until the 1930s that modern advertising such as radio commercials and neon lights appeared in China.

After the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, production boomed but advertising existed only nominally for the state distributed most commodities through planning and very few were sold on the market. During the 1966-76 "cultural revolution," advertising was abolished because the commodity economy was regarded as an aspect of capitalism.

Only since the state started its economic reform and the effort to develop a socialist commodity economy in 1978, has the need to spread information about commodities arisen, and has attention really been given to the advertising industry.

The ABC of Investing in China (III)

Three Forms of Investment Called For

By the end of last year, China had 3,210 joint ventures, 4,390 co-operatively managed projects and 140 wholly foreign-owned enterprises. They represent three forms of foreign investment.

by Our Correspondent Yue Haitao

Sino-foreign joint ventures, co-operative enterprises and wholly foreign-owned enterprises—these are the three main forms of foreign investment in China. The first two are the more common.

Martin Posth, deputy general manager of the Shanghai Volkswagen Automotive Co. Ltd., one of the biggest Sino-foreign joint ventures in China, said a year ago that the business of his corporation had been progressing well since it went into operation in September 1985, thanks to the goodwill and cooperation between his German company and its Chinese counterpart.

According to the Law of the People's Republic of China on Joint Ventures Using Chinese and Foreign Investment promulgated in 1979 (see Beijing Review issue No. 29, 1979) and the Regulations for the Implementation of that law published in 1983 (see BR issue No. 41, 1983), Sino-foreign joint ventures are entities with a legal status established jointly by foreign businesses and Chinese enterprises under the principles of equality and mutual benefit. By the end of last year, 3,210 Sino-foreign joint ventures with a total foreign investment of US$4.8 billion had been approved.

In general, the Chinese side provides a site, workshops, raw materials, cash or special skill as investment while the foreign side provides technology, equipment, industrial property or cash in foreign currencies. Both sides collect dividends according to their registered capital. The Workers of the Beijing Airline Food Co. Ltd., a Sino-foreign joint venture, preparing cold dishes.
Chinese government stipulates that the overseas investment should account for at least 25 percent of the total registered capital of the Sino-foreign joint venture.

Johnny Yuen, general manager of the Guilin Osmanthus Hotel, a Sino-US company, has said in a joint venture the two sides can become very close, working together to manage the enterprise better. He was satisfied with the kind of co-operation he got during the first three-month trial operation of the hotel.

The Antaibao Coal Mine development project in Shanxi Province is operating as a co-operative enterprise—a form of contractual joint venture according to the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and a preparatory stage for future joint ventures.

Co-operative enterprises fall into two categories, one with a legal person status and another without. In the former, the Chinese and overseas investment is owned by the enterprise, the independent legal person, and in the latter the property is owned by the co-operative partners themselves, but the enterprise has the right to administer and use the property. In both cases, generally the Chinese companies provide natural resources and the foreign partners provide all or part of the funds. In return for their investment the foreign side can buy a proportion of the products cheaper than the market price for a comparatively long time, or share the profits according to the agreed contract. When the contract expires, the Chinese side retains all the property of the enterprise, except if the foreign investor has not recouped his investment.

Compared with the joint venture, the co-operative enterprise is simple and flexible and it is easier for the two sides to reach agreement. The procedures for application are very simple. In general they have to be approved by the local administration departments and the enterprises they belong to. Since the site, the land and the workshops do not have to be evaluated no quarrels need arise about their value—they can just be used. The co-operative terms, the form of management, the proportions of investment and benefits to each side can be stipulated in the agreed contract.

At present, co-operative enterprises are found mainly in hotel management, residential building, office building, fish and livestock breeding, crop cultivation, deep-sea fishing, energy, post and telecommunications, medical and health services, cultural, educational and recreational centres.

The co-operative form has developed fast since 1979. By the end of last year 4,390 Sino-foreign co-operative enterprises with a total investment of US$10.9 billion had been approved.

China has not enacted any regulations or laws on the management of co-operative enterprises, but this has not affected their development since the contracts or agreements signed by the co-operation partners carry legal weight and the Chinese side has always abided by them.

In comparison with the joint ventures and co-operative enterprises, the wholly foreign-owned enterprises started later in China and have involved less investment. Up to now there are only 140 such enterprises in China with a total investment of US$600 million. Except for three companies who have invested about US$51 million each, all such enterprises have an investment of less than US$20 million each.

The wholly foreign-owned enterprises are independent of the Chinese administration system and within Chinese law they can be operated any way the owners prefer. They have more autonomy than joint companies but not being acquainted with the Chinese market they are more likely to meet with trouble without a Chinese partner.

In November 1984 the Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company established the 3M China Ltd. in Shanghai with an investment of US$3 million—the first wholly foreign-owned enterprise outside the four special economic zones. Richard Tsang, manager of the corporation, says that it is necessary for wholly foreign-owned enterprises to find a Chinese agent in order to overcome the problems of not having a Chinese partner.
Grain Production & Diversified Economy

by Our Correspondent Han Baocheng

Decontrolling the price of farm produce and opening new trade channels have given the market a bigger role. A direct consequence of this is a readjustment in the structure of the rural economy. The market's multifarious demands have stimulated a better use of natural resources, thus leading to a more diversified pattern of production.

The rise in rural productivity in recent years has diverted about 20 percent of the total rural labour force from traditional farming to village industry, construction, trade, and transport and other services. Ex-farmers involved in these fields now produce 46.9 percent of the rural areas' total output value. Of the remaining rural labour force, 13.4 percent has also taken up sidelines such as fowl and livestock breeding, fishery and tree planting (see table).

It is expected that by the turn of the century another 100 million farmers will have transferred from farming to other lines of business, which will further boost the country's commodity economy. During the course of this major change, the most vexing problem has been how to handle the relationship between grain production and other undertakings.

Role of the Law of Value

In 1986, the productivity of each rural worker averaged 1,834.8 yuan (up 8.89 percent over 1985 in real terms). The productivity of a worker in the secondary sector was 379.9 (up 2.5 percent over 1985).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry/Activity</th>
<th>People (million)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Change from 1985</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total labour power</td>
<td>379.9</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>+ 2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Industry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farming</td>
<td>253.66</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>+ 1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forestry, livestock breeding, sidelines, fishery</td>
<td>51.02</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>-5.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Industry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry</td>
<td>31.4</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>+14.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>13.09</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>+15.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tertiary Industry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport, communications, post, telecommunications</td>
<td>5.06</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>+16.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce, service trades</td>
<td>5.32</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>+15.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education, scientific research, culture, medical service</td>
<td>5.95</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>+9.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration and others</td>
<td>14.41</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>+3.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(industry and construction) and tertiary (commerce and services) industries averaged 4,423.4 yuan (up 9.17 percent over 1985), while that of each labourer in the primary industry (agriculture) was 1,229.5 yuan (up 3.1 percent over the year before). This is partly because of the enormous amount of labour which farming absorbs. So as well as the comparatively low prices set for farm produce, there is the exceptionally low productivity of farming. This problem is more glaring in grain production.

The problem of feeding China's 1 billion people and keeping China's economic situation stable has always meant attaching great importance to grain growing. Yet today, grain is special and not treated as a pure commodity. Although state monopoly on purchasing grain was abolished with the introduction of the second-phase rural reform, the state still controls grain prices through contracted purchasing and subsidizes grain ration for urban residents in an attempt to keep prices low. This situation will not change overnight, and the price for food grain can only be readjusted gradually along with the reform of the entire pricing system. The primitive cultivation, the high labour intensity and low productivity of grain production make it the least competitive, lowest-profit commodity and therefore the one most in need of help.

In suburban Wuhan, Central China, for instance, growing 0.1 hectare of vegetables brings in 2,250 yuan a year, cotton on the same acreage can yield between 375 and 450 yuan. However, the state purchase price for grain from 0.1 hectare of land is only 225 yuan. Even ignoring the amount of labour involved, the irrationality of the price ratios here is obvious. As a result, many farmers have taken up trade, transportation, and other profit-making businesses in the cities.

**Grain Production**

According to China's economic development plan, the country's grain output is expected to reach 425 million tons by 1990 and 500 million tons in the year 2000. To meet this target, the following steps have been taken to encourage grain production.

- The State Council decided to cut the amount of grain purchased through contract and raise the purchasing prices for some food grains.
- To encourage long-term investment in farming, the period for which land is contracted will remain unchanged at 50 years, and children may inherit the contracted land.
- When the contracted land is transferred, the new contractor shall pay a certain amount of money to the former contractor to compensate for his investment in the land.
While efforts are being made to maintain the current acreage of land for food grain, new technology is being spread to raise per-unit output.

To curb the decrease in farmland acreage, a high cultivated land building tax will be levied from this year.

Priority is given to grain producers in the supply of chemical fertilizer, diesel oil and other means of production.

The state also encourages each locality to strengthen farmland capital construction and aid agriculture with profits from industry.

To increase economic returns, concentrating the land contracted to good farmers is encouraged.

Since 1985, Wuhan City has increased its annual investment to agriculture by 30 percent. About one-third of the budgets of every county under the city is now spent on farming. The local township enterprises have also put part of their pre-tax profits into supporting agriculture. Farmers engaged in trade and industry contribute 1 percent of their annual incomes to farm production. All these funds, however, are not given to grain producers directly, but are used as investment in large water projects or bonuses and subsidies to grain producers.

Xintian Village in suburban Wuhan has contracted 85 hectares of farmland to 28 farming households. Most of the village's 1,068 able-bodied people are working in the village-run factories. In 1985, the village's industrial output value amounted to 7.82 million yuan, raising its per-capita income from 154 yuan in 1980 to 907 yuan. The village also used part of its industrial incomes to buy a draft animal, a 12-horse power tractor and a small farm machine (such as a thresher) for each grain-producing household. Each household may also rent a water pump which can become its own property four years later with the payment of a fee. Each household is awarded 10 yuan for every 100 kg of commodity grain it produces. Meanwhile, the land rent (150 yuan per hectare) is paid from the public accumulation fund.

In addition, the village has set up groups for irrigation, pest control and machine ploughing to serve grain-producing households who need only pay for the insecticides, chemical fertilizer and water. As a result, the grain-producing households' incomes have actually exceeded those of other farmers. In 1986, a number of other farming households applied to grow food grain.

Farmer Han Shouzhong has contracted 8 hectares of land with two other households. In 1985 they reaped 40,000 kg of grain and sold the state 19,000 kg. Han is pleased with the contract system, saying that it helps them use labour and large farm machines more rationally. Last year, another two households joined the group. Currently they are devoting their efforts to improving seeds, fertilizer use, pest control, and other farming problems.

Most of the places in China with developed rural industries have adopted methods similar to Xintian Village's in their attempts to support farming.

Diversified Economy

On the understanding that stable and high grain output is ensured, the state encourages localities to develop a diversified economy (forestry, fowl and livestock breeding and fishing) in line with local conditions. Today, the national ratios of land planted with food grain, cash crops and other crops is 8:1:1, which it is planned should remain unchanged for a long time to come. But this ratio will vary from place to place.

For instance, in China's southernmost province, Guangdong, the humid climate and plentiful sunshine make it suitable for growing cash crops and tropical fruits, while Hong Kong and Macao nearby are ready markets. To meet the demand, the province has in recent years readjusted its agricultural production in favour of these crops.

In 1978, 5.7 million hectares of Guangdong's 7.4 million hectares of cultivated land were planted with food grain. With the expansion of cash crops production since 1979, the land devoted to food grain has diminished year by year, dropping to 4.33 million hectares by 1985. The province's grain output that year decreased by 1.75 billion kg from the year before, but its total agricultural output value rose 7 percent.

The rural area outside Enping County town in Guangdong has 2,000 hectares of cultivated land, 80 percent of which used to grow rice and 20 percent, cassava. In 1978, the area's per-capita income only averaged 76 yuan. Since the responsibility system was introduced in 1979, grain output has increased. The farmers have also planted 1,100 hectares of land with such cash crops as sugarcane, banana, orange and papaya, and begun freshwater fish farming. In 1985, the farmers' net income from agriculture rose to 618 yuan per person. With other incomes from industry and sidelines, the area's average per-capita income topped 1,000 yuan that year. While developing a diversified economy, the local agricultural departments also helped the farmers to draw up production plans and provided them with seeds, saplings, funds and techniques. Nine technicians regularly go to the villages to coach the farmers in new techniques and disseminate them as widely as possible.

Because of the plummeting farmland acreage, Guangdong Province now has to import several billion kg of food grains every year from abroad and other provinces in China.

JUNE 1, 1987
New Mission for Chinese Christians

by Lin Wusun/ Wang Xianghong

Church leaders are turning their minds towards the task of building up the life of the church well. "Our aim is to make the churches places every Christian loves to go," said Anglican Bishop K.H. Ting in an exclusive interview with Beijing Review.

Bishop Ting, also principal of Nanjing Theological College, noted that this focus has been ascertained at a meeting on Christian work held in Hangzhou last February. It suggested that with the principles of self-government, self-support and self-propagation firmly established, it was already a foregone conclusion the church in China was to be governed by Chinese Christians and not by foreign missionaries.

Christians at home and abroad are very much for the Three-Self idea when they see for themselves its results, noted Ting. Robert Runcie, the Archbishop of Canterbury, demonstrated his support for the Chinese Church by making two recent visits to China. He considers the formation in the 16th century of the Church of England by throwing off the yoke of the Pope very much a Three-Self Movement too.

It is barely three years since Beijing Review's first interview with Bishop Ting in June 1984. The church was then just recovering from the 10-year setbacks of the "cultural revolution" (1966-76). Since that time striking changes in China's religious life have taken place and Chinese Protestant Christians have opened over 4,000 churches across the country. They now claim some 4 million members.

The burgeoning religion has begun to put more emphasis on the training of leaders. Over the past three years, nine more theological training centres, which include seminaries and theological schools at lower levels, have been set up in Beijing, Shenyang in northern China and in Shanghai, Hangzhou, Wuhan, Fuzhou and Guangzhou in the south. Nanjing Theological College was once the only seminary in China. Now these institutes have a combined total enrollment of more than 600 students.

These students were chosen from among 5,000 applicants with senior middle school education. Recommended by their local churches they have to pass a stiff examination. In their four-year course, they study theology, the Bible and church history, foreign languages and other subjects. "All these efforts are geared to produce a new generation of Christian leaders," said Ting.

"We also need specialists such as artists, painters and sculptors. There are exhibits in Nanjing devoted to Chinese traditional artistic forms imbued with Christian themes."

However, Ting lamented a shortage of qualified teachers. Even in Nanjing Theological College, the full time faculty includes only seven professors, seven associate professors and six instructors and a few lecturers. The majority of them are elderly. "It was impossible to train any Christian teachers during the 'cultural revolution'." Now, he added, religious beliefs are again fully protected by the Constitution. Theological education has been placed high on the Church's agenda and a committee on theological education has been established by the China Christian Council.

In the past three years, more and more religious books have been published, Ting recalled. During the six years up to the end of 1986, about 2.30 million Bibles were printed and sold. A newly published Hymnal consists of 400 hymns of which the music and lyrics for about 100 have been written by Chinese Christians.

Ting sees the need for a journal for local ministers only. The Nanjing Theological Review is in its fourth year and has two editions, domestic and overseas, with a total circulation of 18,000, probably one of the most widely circulated theological journal in the world.

Another interesting development of modern Christianity in China is that more and more women are giving leadership and receiving ordination, Bishop Ting pointed out. Women make up one-sixth of the 300 ministers ordained in the last three years. "We have, for example, a lay woman serving as the chairperson of the Jiangsu Provincial Christian Council," Ting said, adding that now female students in China's theological schools account for 33 percent of the total student bodies.

Worship groups in Christian's homes, a tradition that has long been practised by Protestants here, is very much a part of China's Three-Self Movement and has its roots in the Bible, Ting stressed. "However," he said, "there has been some misunderstanding and misrepresentation abroad over the so-called home-churches. Some have called them the 'underground churches' as if these groups are opponents of the people's government in China or of our Three-Self Movement."

"They certainly are not," Ting pointed out. "In fact, my mother who passed away a few months ago at the age of 101 was a very ardent devotee of such a group which met in her home." Ting added that to meet the needs of those home-church leaders, a (continued on p.31)
Why China Must Not Adopt Capitalism

The article Why Capitalism Is Impractical in China, by Hu Sheng, in Issue No. 13, March 30, 1987, was a brilliant and honest account of the history of modern China.

It should be required reading in all Western universities teaching international politics. It should be required reading for all types of students in China itself.

Socialism requires an expansion of science in all areas. Some nations may specialize in one area or another, but nations must trade information and learn from one another.

Socialism requires that the government promotes good human relations as the basis of good co-operation, the foundation of successful production.

Peace, rather than war, is necessary to protect the hard-won gains of labour and science and cooperation.

Socialism may ultimately prove itself superior to all other systems by its ability to draw most widely upon the population to fill essential positions. Where there is no privileged group controlling a society, there the society fills jobs at the highest level by those most capable for the job.

Where there are enterprises, it is essential that there be an uninhibited discussion about how best to accomplish the task. Discussion - action - discussion - action. This is the formula for the evolution of all necessary tasks. The people must not be dispirited, but encouraged in the formula. All nationalities must come to function on an equal footing; to gain pride in performance.

Traditions are both negative and progressive. The progressive side must be emphasized. This protects the sense of history and the people's pride in it. All special classes have strangled traditions for their own special benefits. It can be the role of progressive government to salvage a history by releasing that stranglehold and opening up the virtue of whatever has passed in history, to the common benefit of all of the people.

A universal world civilization is growing reluctantly on our planet. World commerce, world science, world travel, are laying the foundation of a common culture and universal values. There are norms of good treatment of each other which are now universal, instead of particular, or limited.

Each nation develops the best in itself, develops its economy and science, its standard of living. This becomes its legacy to world civilization. We will all adopt from each other what is good.

A society that lies on its back, or holds back development, will limit its own place in the new world civilization. The next century, if we can abolish war in this century, will bring universal benefits to the entire planet and all of its people.

Life on this planet, free of crude reactionary politics, will promote life in space in artificial orbs, or on other bodies, through scientific projects which it is now futile to conjecture about. Space will be mined for minerals.

We have everything to live for by promoting peace and development on the planet. A golden age can come in place of the nightmare of nuclear war and limited wars.

George S. Tolmie
Hartford, USA

Same Guarantees to Macao and Taiwan

It is heartening to learn that Hong Kong will retain its present economic system for a hundred years and possibly beyond. This should work in the interests of the Chinese nation. Given the historical and economic development of Hong Kong it is imperative to treasure its achievements over the past centuries.

You may also want to provide the same guarantees to Macao and Taiwan and who knows, this may speed up the quick reunification of the latter with mainland China.

It is imperative for the three entities maintain their present economic systems for probably an indefinite period of time because China's modernization may have much to benefit from the advanced technologies found in these three places.

Stephen Isabirye
Arizona, USA

Reader's Comment On 'Beijing Review'

I think the covers of Beijing Review are pleasant and vivid. You have also increased the number of photographs which is progress.

Compared with some of the shorter, more readable articles, I feel the notes from the editors seem a bit lengthy and dull sometimes. But I am interested in your international views, and am glad to see your comments show less prejudice against the West than they did previously.

I learn a lot from Beijing Review articles. Though sometimes they are not very important they are often interesting. There is no other way I can get such information.

The layout is fresher now. I would very much like to read more about Chinese ancient history and Chinese travel.

Wolfgang Reisinger
Linz, Austria
Taiwan ‘Self-Determination’ Criticized

“RENMIN RIBAO”
(People’s Daily, Overseas Edition)

Not long ago, the Taiwan Daily published a signed article entitled Self-Determination or Self-Alienation? The author said that the advocates of self-determination were in fact trying to alienate themselves from the people of China.

The statement of the so-called self-determination of Taiwan repeatedly put forward by a small number of people in Taiwan, the author said, is seemingly an imitation of the theory of national self-determination put forward during World War I (1914-1918). At that time, the slogan was meant to inspire the small and weak nations ruled by imperialists to gain independence. Now, things are different in the world, the author said, and the encouragement of self-determination can only ferment splits within the nation. No good will come of it.

The article enumerated and repudiated some arguments maintained by the advocates of self-determination in Taiwan, such as “it is fair and reasonable that Taiwan should separate itself from China because Taiwan is not a part of the Chinese nation,” and “after self-determination Taiwan can return to the United Nations and join the international community, and a political system chosen by all people in Taiwan can be developed.”

In fact, the author said, these arguments are only the advocates’ own wishful thinking and gross self-deception, because people in Taiwan are a part of the Chinese nation as has been detailed in Chinese recorded history. It is absolutely idiotic nonsense to talk about Taiwan returning to the international community and the United Nations after self-determination.

New Findings in Surname Research

“XINMIN WANBAO”
(Shanghai Evening News)

Zhang, Wang, Li and Zhao are the four most common Chinese surnames, and people with the surname ‘Liu’ can be found all over the country.” This was the view most people had about Chinese surnames. But, new and more accurate findings have been achieved recently in Chinese surname research by Du Ruofu and Yuan Yida at the Institute of Genetics under the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

On the basis of a random sampling of data of about 570,000 people collected in the 1982 census by the State Statistics Bureau and statistics contained in the book Distribution of Surnames in Taiwan published in Taiwan in 1970, both researchers revealed some interesting facts with the help of computer. The results indicate that Li’s rank first in terms of number among the Han people, about 7.9 percent of the total Han population, followed by people with the surnames of “Wang” and “Zhang,” making up about 7.4 and 7.1 percent respectively.

The results also showed that there are other 16 major surnames, each of them account for more than 1 percent of the total Han population. They are Liu, Chen, Yang, Zhao, Huang, Zhou, Wu, Xu, Sun, Hu, Zhu, Gao, Lin, He, Guo and Ma. Added with the Li’s, Wang’s and Zhang’s, people with the 19 surnames amount to about 55.6 percent of the total population of the Han nationality. In other words, more than half of China’s Han population use these surnames at present.

There are another 81 common surnames among the Han people. Along with the 19 most common surnames, their total number amount to 87 percent of the total Han population.

The researchers also found that the distribution of Han surnames varies greatly in different regions. The people with the surnames of Li, Wang, Zhang and Liu are very common in northern China, while the surnames of Zhao, Huang, Lin, Wu and others are mainly...
found among the people residing in southern China. Basing themselves on this finding, Du Ruofu and Yuan Yida are making further study on the blood relationship among the people and their rate of migration in different regions.

However, Du Ruofu said, they don’t know how many surnames the Han people use now. From the random sampling of the 1982 census, they have found 1,066 surnames among the Han people. Du said this was incomplete. He estimated that there are about 3,000 surnames used among the Han people now. Du Ruofu revealed that he and his assistant have collected more than 8,000 Han people now. Du Ruofu revealed that he knew several surnames among the people and their rate of migration in different regions.

They Do Come Back From College

“JINGJI RIBAO”
(Economic Daily)

May 2, 1987

Many of China’s rural young people think that moving to the city would be a dream come true. The best way to get an urban residence card is to gain admission to a college by passing an entrance examination.

However, not everyone feels this way—for example, for Chen Yuxin and his three brothers of Sichuan Province’s Xinjin County. Although they are all university graduates and were assigned to city jobs, they all quit their positions and returned to their home village four years ago. They chose the countryside rather than the city because they wanted to go into business and have established a profitable quail farm. Believing that science can mean better business, they recently raised 200,000 yuan to set up an animal husbandry science and technology institute. It is this kind of pioneering project that State Councillor Song Jian, also the head of the State Scientific and Technological Commission, praised when he called the four brothers “socialist businessmen who are fine examples of China’s economic revitalization.”

The four brothers began farming in their home village of Gujia after graduating from their local middle school. When college entrance examinations were re-instituted in China in 1977, all four took them, passed, and were enrolled. They were all given urban jobs upon graduation. The eldest, Liu Yongyan, was a computer engineer at a factory in Chengdu, Sichuan’s capital; Liu Yongxing, the second brother, was an electronics technician in a county factory; and Liu Yonghao, the youngest, taught at a provincial college. The third brother, Chen Yuxin, had been given away as a child to another family because his parents could not afford to support all their children. Though he took his adopted family’s name, he remained close to his three brothers and was in fact the first one to quit his city job as a county agricultural technician, to return to Gujia, his native village. There he set up a seed breeding farm. The four brothers were determined to make their fortunes by making use of their knowledge.

However, Xinjin County is densely populated and lacks arable land, so the brothers decided to turn to poultry-raising instead. After experimenting with raising various types of domestic fowl, they settled on quail because the birds are resistant to disease, reach maturity quickly, and require a minimal initial investment.

In 1983, the brothers spent all their savings on 1,000 baby quail. By the following year, they had 10,000, and by 1985, 60,000.

The four brothers have applied what they learned in college to the new business. The two electronics experts, Yongyan and Yonghao, have developed computerized feed processing and breeding systems, while Chen Yuxin and Liu Yongxing, the animal husbandry experts, have studied the quail life cycle. As a result, the brothers were able to drastically cut their costs and to bring the price of quail eggs down to that of chicken eggs. This has resulted in brisk sales and good profits.

Inspired by the four brothers’ example, other farmers in Xinjin have begun raising quail, a new industry that can generate an annual output value of 6 million yuan for the county, making it the country’s biggest quail raising base. Moreover, the county’s 600,000 quail produce more than 300 tons of excrement each year, or almost as much fertilizer as a small chemical plant can produce.

The four brothers have received support and encouragement from leaders of various levels. For example, the State Scientific and Technological Commission recently sent Chen Yuxin to the Democratic Republic of Germany and the Federal Republic of Germany to learn more about poultry raising.

( April 27, 1987)
Inspecting Import and Export Goods

China has strengthened its inspection of goods arriving and leaving the country as its foreign trade has developed.

In 1986 the inspection departments examined 988,771 batches of goods for export and found that 14,075 of them were not up to the contract requirements or were substandard. They also inspected 164,338 consignments of imported products and discovered 18,495 of them below requirement. They helped importers claim a total of US$144.57 million in compensation for inadequate quality goods, checked displacement and loading capacity for 11,400 ships and examined 32,800 containers. They also issued 150,000 preferential certificates (generalized system) to US$3 billion worth of export goods.

According to a spokesman from the State Commodity Inspection Bureau, in the six years from 1980 to 1985 the bureau inspected 400,000 batches of imported goods and wrote certificates for damage or missing goods and helped importers claim compensation. In 1985 China claimed a total of US$38 million in compensation for inadequate motor vehicles and colour TV sets and five other goods. The bureau also examined 3.18 million batches of export goods and stopped those which were not up to standard, thus saving China US$144.57 million in compensation for inadequate quality goods.

Cotton, and the Interim Regulations on the Supervision of Certificates of Export of Machinery and Electrical Appliances. It has drawn up 108 standards for commodity inspection. The bureau boasts a body of technicians and advanced equipment for the job and has branches in 29 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions.

by Liu Jianjun

Foreign Investment Flourishing

Foreign investment in China is plentiful. In the first three months of this year, the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone signed 77 contracts involving foreign funds, an increase of 26 percent over the same period last year. The total investment was US$90 million, 2.7 times as much. Of the newly agreed projects 85.6 percent are industrial, and 70 percent of their products will be exported.

Foreign businesses seeking to invest are increasing in number. In the first three months of this year, over 340 foreign business people came to negotiate, averaging four or five a day. In March alone, the number of foreign representatives was four times as many as in the first two months. They mainly came from 16 countries and regions, including the United States, Japan, Italy and Hong Kong.

Qingdao, the largest sundry goods port in China, concluded in the first quarter 36 agreements involving an investment of US$224 million. The foreign sides will invest US$110 million, or 49 percent.

Since its opening up in 1984, Qingdao has signed 411 contracts on importing foreign technology, valued at US$560 million.

Yantai received more than 500 foreign business representatives and held talks on over 130 investment projects in the first three months of this year. Agreements or letters of intent have been signed for half of these projects, and 10 formal contracts signed.

Yu Zhengsheng, mayor of Yantai, said that his city has signed 114 agreements on the introduction of US$160 million of foreign funds since it was designated an open city in 1984. These include 30 Sino-foreign joint ventures and co-operative enterprises, eight of which have gone into operation.

Beijing plans to approve 50 to 70 enterprises for foreign investors this year, including large-scale and advanced technological joint ventures producing 1.8 million colour TV kinescopes and 500,000 refrigerators a year.

In 1986, Beijing's agreements with foreign companies were worth US$980 million, an increase of 9 percent over 1985. There are now 189 foreign-invested ventures in Beijing.

According to Li Ruihuan, mayor of Tianjin, the State Council recently approved Tianjin's use of US$1 billion for upgrading industrial technology, improving product quality, increasing the capacity for export earnings and constructing a number of infrastructural projects during the Seventh Five-Year Plan period (1986-90).

Meanwhile, the State Council has allowed Tianjin to approve projects each involving foreign investment of up to 200 million yuan.

In 1986, Tianjin signed 492 contracts for Sino-foreign joint ventures, involving an investment of US$180 million. Foreign investment was 72 percent higher than in the year before. Already 187 of these joint ventures are operating and performing well. In addition, Tianjin has issued 1 million Japanese yen-denominated bonds on the Tokyo market.

Shanghai, the largest industrial

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city in China, has drawn up its Regulations on Encouraging Foreign Investment and set up the foreign investment offices and the foreign exchange readjustment centre to handle official business. By 1986, Shanghai had 222 foreign-invested enterprises, 101 of which are in operation and doing well.

**Fiat Improves Its Ties With China**

Fiat today—an exhibition of the achievements of Fiat SPA and its co-operation with China—opened in Beijing on May 16.

The exhibition occupies 4,000 square metres of floor space. On display were all kinds of motor vehicles, electronic equipment, farm machines, and communications, transport and construction equipment. A particular Fiat mini-car has attracted great interest. Fiat has discussed the possibility of jointly producing it with China.

The last few years have seen an improvement in co-operation between Fiat and China. China has imported many Fiat coaches, trucks, tractors, bulldozers and microwave telecommunications equipment. In 1986 Fiat signed a licensing agreement with the Nanjing Automotive Company permitting Nanjing to produce 60,000 Fiat light-duty buses and 100,000 engines a year. Fiat also concluded contracts with the Shanghai and Luoyang tractor manufacturing factories to use Fiat technology to produce 20,000 40-100 horsepower tractors a year. In addition Fiat signed a contract with China for providing the technology for producing cylinder lids for diesel engines. Fiat has also helped China train technical personnel and has granted financial assistance to China.

**Trade News in Brief**

- The Lokossa Textile Mill, constructed with Chinese assistance, went into operation on May 7 in Mauno, Benin. With 20,000 spindles and 720 looms the factory has an annual production capacity of 13 million metres of cloth. The construction of the factory started in April 1984.
- Prior to this, China had helped Benin build a stadium, a cigarette factory and a match factory.
- The Soviet Maritime Transport Co. opened an office in Shanghai on May 13 in accordance with an agreement to establish shipping agents in both countries. The China Ocean Shipping Co. will soon set up a similar agency in Odessa, the Soviet Union.

- The Laiwu Iron and Steel Plant in Shandong Province will apply for a US$150 million expansion loan from the Asian Development Bank. This is the first iron and steel enterprise in China hoping to use a foreign loan.

Opened in 1970, the plant now has an annual production capacity of 300,000 tons of steel. After expansion, it is expected to turn out 700,000 tons of steel, 620,000 tons of rolled steel and 840,000 tons of iron a year.

- The European Community will assist China with US$2.31 million to build two fish food plants in Zhejiang Province in the south and in Tianjin in the north. Each should have an annual production capacity of 10,000 tons.

The EEC sent experts on an inspection tour and drew up two plans. During the construction, it will dispatch experts to supervise the implementation of the plans.

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**China’s Christians**

special journal is being published by Nanjing Seminary.

In recent years, Protestants have also pursued a vigorous exchange programme with foreign countries and have established contacts with more Christian groups and individuals overseas, Ting noted. He mentioned the visit paid by the Archbishop of Canterbury, spiritual head of World Anglicanism, the delegation from the British Council of Churches, Ugandan Bishop Festol Kivengere, and the group led by Dr. Hubbard, President of Fuller Theology Seminary in Pasadena, California. In addition, Ting spoke of the delegation of the presidents of several seminaries in the United States that have also come to visit Chinese churches. Ting told *Beijing Review* reporters he was expecting president Donald Shriver and his wife from the Union Theological Seminary, New York, Ting’s alma mater.

“I’m also very pleased to see that in recent years more and more Christian groups from evangelical denominations are deepening their contacts with us,” Ting said.

“As for international activities, we have attended twice the meetings of the World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP), a world organization with its headquarters in New York and Geneva. Chinese Protestants took part in the Asian Conference on Religion and Peace held last year in Seoul, South Korea. And I just came back from the International Conference on Religious Liberty held in New Delhi, India, where I was a speaker.”

When asked whether the current criticism of bourgeois liberalization had any effect on his church, Ting said, “No, all-out westernization is something we have stood against all these years, as witnessed to by our principles of self-government, self-support and self-propagation. But, self-isolation is not one of the three. The Chinese church is to be rooted in the Chinese soil, but related to churches in other lands. We are enriched as a part of the church universal.”

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*JUNE 1, 1987*
The first national violin competition featuring only Chinese works was held in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province in March. Chen Lixin, 27, of the PLA Opera Troupe stood out from all other contestants to become the first-prize winner of the competition. There were six second- and third-prize winners. Among them, three are students of music conservatories in Shanghai and Beijing, and one is a violin teacher at the Central Conservatory of Music.

The violin, one of the most popular Western musical instruments in China, was introduced here around half a century ago. Since then, especially after the "cultural revolution," many good violinists have emerged, some of them have won international fame. At the first international youth violin invitational competition held in Beijing last September, Chinese violinists captured the titles in both the junior and senior sections. Other Chinese contestants at the Beijing competition also showed that they had a command of techniques and a deep understanding of the works they played. If the Beijing competition demonstrated that young Chinese violinists can match their foreign colleagues, the success of the recent Shenzhen competition indicates that the performance of Chinese violin works also has a bright future.

In the first stage of the recent competition, the contestants were required to play one of Chinese late violinist and composer Ma Xicong's works, Nostalgia and The Lama Monastery composed in 1937 and 1941 respectively. The two pieces are hailed as the most distinguishing career creating Chinese violin works.

The repertoire also included Chen Gang's Tashikurgan in the Sunshine which describes the happy life of the Tajiks living in the western border area. Chen Gang uses an exultant, graceful tune to first express lyrical and then vigorous sentiment. The performance lasts only seven minutes, but is full of joyful excitement. It seems that one can hear the ticking of dongbula, a plucked stringed instrument used by folk artists in northwest Xinjiang.

During the first stage of the competition, 40 contestants, one-quarter of them female players, were required to perform a Chinese violin work of their choice. The works performed cover a wide range of themes, encompassing traditional and modern techniques, and were composed at different times, both before and after liberation. Some were never heard before.

After the intense first-round competition, 16 contestants moved on to the second stage. They were asked to perform the violin concerto Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai (The Butterfly Lovers), or Du Mingxin's No. 1 Concerto. The former tells of a folk story of tragedy, said to be as moving as Romeo and Juliet. The work was composed with a yueju opera melody and borrows some playing techniques of national instruments, hailed for their graceful, fascinating tunes when played on violins. The latter, by Du Mingxin, who had distinguished careers as composer and professor, contains three movements, and is admired by audiences for excellent orchestration and colourful harmony. The second movement starts out so gracefully that it leaves audiences with an unforgettable impression.

Another Chinese violin work listed in the compulsory programme for stage-two contestants was Xia Liang's Fantasia. Xia Liang, aged 30, uses a modern twelve-note system technique to express the subtropical scene and the folk customs of national minorities in Yunnan Province. It had been awarded a prize at a national competition featuring chamber music works held in 1985.

Professor Chen Gang, 52, was one of the distinguished composers invited as members of the jury. His successful violin work, Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai, and other ones were performed by every contestant. He has become one of the most prolific composers trained by New China. The famous Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai was written in the 1950s, when he was at Shanghai Music Conservatory. He composed the music together with his classmate He Zhanhao who is quite familiar with yueju opera. The music not only describes the heroine's unwavering love to the hero but also praises her anti-feudal spirit. To resist the marriage arranged by her parents and to show her loyal and steadfast feeling to her lover, Lao Slyang, who comes from the Shanghai Music Conservatory, wins the second prize.
Yu Lina, the only woman member of the jury, gives a demonstration.

she sacrificed her life in front of Liang’s tomb. Then the tomb split open, whereupon a pair of butterflies flew out—the reincarnation of Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai. The mythologized conclusion brings the music to its climax and creates a romantic, tragic scene moving many in the audience to tears. Composer Chen Gang uses the structures of the sonata to expose the dramatic conflicts. In addition, he also absorbs the useful techniques of traditional national instruments, creating the effects of symphony with unique style.

The successful work has been hailed by both concert-goers and musicians as one of the most representative violin works with Chinese flavour. The violin work also established its fame in the world since many violinists in the Soviet Union, Mongolia, the United States, the Britain, Canada, France, Australia, Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan have performed this music to the public.

Chen Gang said, in this musical achievement he and his colleagues have tried to preserve the efforts of senior generations. He held that Chinese musicians should create works with Chinese characteristics. Only in this way can Chinese musicians make contributions to the world culture. With this as his principle, he composed a violin work called Morning on the Miao Mountains, adapted from a folk song played on a koudi, a kind of mouth organ. One can hear in the music portamento and trill and pleasant rhythms played on a Chinese bamboo flute. The exultant tune impressed the audience with the joy of the Miao when they are working on the mountains.

Prof. Chen, who works with the Shanghai Music Conservatory, appreciated the new works performed at the competition. He said some distinguish themselves for melodious tunes, some feature local customs of different nationalities, while others emphasize delineation of ideas and moods. These works involve different composing techniques—the traditional, modern, and those skills borrowed from traditional national instrument pieces—all filled with the breath of the era.

Viewed from historical angle, Prof. Situ Huacheng from the Central Music Conservatory appreciated the importance of displaying national style. He established his reputation in the 40s, and has been a solo performer and first violinist in some orchestras. A composer as well as an art critic, he has devoted years to the studies of nationalizing violin art. This time, he was appointed vice-director of the jury.

He said that Chinese musicians' devotion to creating Chinese violin works began in the 30s. However, it is only after the founding of New China that Chinese musicians are encouraged to compose Chinese works on a large scale.

In the beginning, only a few composers and violinists have created short pieces of music adapted from folk songs. Though with Chinese themes and melody, these works follow Western techniques in musical structure, harmony and development. From the end of the 50s, due to active efforts of Chinese musicians, there was an increase in violin works based on folk songs, folk music and opera music. Various forms of music appeared, both Western and the Chinese, including concertos.

While continuing the Western playing techniques, the Chinese violinists also absorb techniques in playing national instruments such as giving portamento and employing various bowings. Some musicians have set about writing books to teach scales and etudes with a national flavour.

The years after the “cultural revolution” saw an encouraging development in Chinese violin works. New works cover a wider range of themes and forms, on a relatively complex level. There is progress being made in violin teaching materials, including rudimentary violin books, Chinese-style five-tone scale exercises, and playing technique exercises featuring Beijing opera. China also published collections of excellent Chinese violin works composed after 1949.

Yu Lina was the only woman member of the jury. She became famous after her first performance of Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai in 1958 when she was only 18. Following her initial success, she triumphed in the 1960 international Robert Schumann string quartet competition in which she was first violinist in a female quartet with three other violinists from the Shanghai Music Conservatory. She is famous for her cultured emotion combined with elegant tone. Last February, she toured with the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra in Hong Kong, giving performance of Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai which gained her enthusiastic acclaim.

As respected critics of different papers put it, Yu Lina is “perfect in her command of the techniques.” “It seems that she is singing from her heart the lyrical themes...
on the violin.” In the music she played, one can feel the subtle changes as erhu playing techniques could do, and the artistic conception as a traditional ink-and-colour painting.”

At a forum held during the competition, she gave a demonstration of violin work and explained her technique. However, she stressed that this is only her personal understanding. In fact, there are no invariable models to follow. Different style and comprehension are encouraged. She was very pleased to see that there were 39 contestants playing Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai at the competition.

As Yu stressed, the Chinese musicians must, first of all, master the traditional techniques accepted by violinists worldwide, then can they write and play works with unique Chinese style. Now she gives lectures to more than a hundred violin and viola students at the Shanghai Music Conservatory. Students are taught Western classics and Chinese works. Her students have done well at international competitions and the recent national violin competition in Shenzhen. However, she said that it may take the efforts of generations to form a Chinese style of violin art.

by Lin Yang

Micky Mouse Helps Beijing Boy Artist

Calling himself an “artist,” Fu Meng, an 8-year-old Beijing boy, enjoys a childhood full of opportunities that his father would never have dreamed possible in the old days. From dawn till dusk, Fu Meng has a busy schedule, morning exercises, Chinese language and literature, arithmetic, outdoor playing, dinner, music, TV and finally — the most important — painting.

Fu Meng’s father is a painter and his mother a professional coloratura soprano. Years ago his parents were competing to teach Meng his or her own major until the little boy kicked and screamed about his over-saturation though he showed talents in both fields. It was only recently that the parents reached an agreement to let the boy pursue painting.

From one-year old up to now, Fu Meng has drawn piles of pictures. From his first piece “Red Flag” in water colour to his recent “Zoo” in oils, people can see that his lines are quite bold and colours used imaginatively time and again. His paintings are quite mature; many may remind people of the primitive murals in style and in feeling.

According to his father, Meng’s creative paintings have recently been influenced by Walt Disney’s cartoon series “Micky and Donald,” the American cartoon has been shown in China since last year. Meng’s paintings are now a bit stretched and exaggerated as in the cartoons.

Meng is a regular TV watcher. Cartoons and sports programmes are his favourites. “TV brings things far away close to me. It won’t be good without TV,” said Meng.

For his mother’s birthday this year, Meng gave her a plate-painting with three meek, white rabbits. Says Meng, “Mother works very hard for me and for father.” After an 8-hour day of singing, mother Fan Wenfang has to cook meals, wash clothes and clean the house for Meng and his father while the latter two often make a mess with their ink and colours on their clothes and the dining-room walls. The 8-square-metre painting studio is also used as the family’s dining room and sitting room. Meng looked extremely sorry and sad when mother complained that he often returns home with mud or dust all over himself. Meng’s father, however, has a different opinion. He says it’s a sign of men’s love of nature, “Meng is not just playing with clay, he is doing sculpture.” One of the Meng’s plate-paintings, “Good-Will Hunter,” shows a tough guy carrying an enormous hunting gun in a forest. Instead of shooting the birds in the trees, however, the hunter is waving “Good Morning!” to the curious, surprised birds nearby.

Father and son paint together

Talking about his son’s luckiness to be growing in these times, the 41-year-old father said, “We should bring up our children to love each other, to love Mother Nature and to love art rather than teach them to fight each other as was the case during the ‘cultural revolution.’ (1966-76) I love my boy because he loves art and is generous to his friends.”

by Zhao Zonglu
Zong Qixiang, born in 1917 in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, teaches at the Central Academy of Fine Arts. His art ranges over painting landscapes, nature, and character. By integrating Chinese and Western painting techniques Zong has developed a style of his own.

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