Promoting Traditional Tibetan Culture

PEOPLE’S MEDIATION SYSTEM
A Yi-crafts woman selling her silver jewelry at the market of Gaofeng Township, Chuxiong Yi autonomous prefecture in Yunnan Province. The market has expanded considerably with the development of the local economy.

by Zhu Yuhu
Recognition of Society's Interest Groups
- Before the reform, the existence of different interest groups in society was denied, subsuming all social conflicts under "class struggle." The recognition that different interest groups exist and are multiplying is leading to a concerted effort to handle their claims (p. 14).

People's Mediation, Civil Dispute Resolution
- People's mediation committees—mass organizations of self-education and self-administration—provide solutions to most civil disputes before they develop into bitter legal proceedings (p. 15).

Prison Turned Into School
- The Hebei No. 1 Prison requires inmates to labour in the daytime and study in the evenings. It is a school where the inmates are reformed through labour and study—giving them new living and working skill and allowing them to turn a new leaf (p. 18).

Higher Education Not Regressing
- There has been some concern expressed abroad that China's higher education is reverting to its "cultural revolution" model. Notes From the Editors looks at the re-emphasis of political and ideological work, the military training requirement, the physical labour and community services on China's campuses and argues that they are all quite different from their "cultural revolution" manifestations and are aimed at training people for the modernization drive (p. 4).

Promoting Traditional Tibetan Culture
- In order to carry forward Tibet's special culture, researchers have examined Tibet's grass-roots culture and recorded dozens of traditional dances. Attention has also been paid to developing Tibetan studies and the Tibetan language (p. 21).
China’s Education Is Not Regressing

by An Zhiguo

Since last winter, China’s education has become the focus of some considerable attention. People have noticed the increase in political and ideological education for Chinese students, the introduction of physical labour and military training, the making of political behaviour a factor in admitting students, and the requirement that university students do one year of practical work in grass-roots units after completing their courses. Some foreign observers believe these to be new measures adopted after last year’s campus unrest. They worry that China’s educational policy will return to the “cultural revolution” model. They worry needlessly.

The education system of any country is designed to serve its interests. China’s socialist education system is no exception. It aims to train people who support socialism, serve the people, are self-disciplined and imbued with lofty ideals and moral integrity. This educational policy dictates that while giving the students cultural and scientific learning, the school should also give them political and ideological education. In judging students’ achievements, one must consider both their academic knowledge and their political orientation.

Strengthening political and ideological work in schools and taking political attitude as a factor in admitting students did not begin after the demonstrations, but have been features of China’s education for the last few years. They were re-emphasized only because they had weakened.

The nature of the ideological work and the process of selecting students are completely different from those in the “cultural revolution.” After 1957 especially during the “cultural revolution,” due to “leftist” ideology, political and ideological work on campus was based on taking intellectuals as the targets of reform. Such an erroneous starting point led to rude and coercive conduct which hurt many people.

Since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee in 1978, the theory of “the intellectuals being part of the working class” has been affirmed and the “leftist” mistakes have been corrected. Under the reform and opening up, ideological and political work in institutions of higher education has been much improved. In teaching, theory is linked to practice, so that students can make a Marxist analysis of the larger problems through their own experience and their judgment can be improved.

Political and ideological work is being conducted in more lively ways, such as organizing students in dialogues with school leaders, government officials or scholars, inviting psychologists and medical scientists to answer students’ questions, organizing amateur artistic groups and sports teams for university students to give them an aesthetic education and help expand their intellectual realm.

The schools use guidance, not coercion, in doing political and ideological work. Students are encouraged to air their views, it does not matter if their views are wrong; considering them as equals and with sincerity, the teachers will analyse their views and give them guidance in a democratic way. Students are encouraged to think independently, educate, supervise and make adjustments themselves, thereby developing their ideology and morality.

As regards admitting students on the basis of their political behaviour, an official from the State Education Commission has said that the “cultural revolution” practice of making students’ family background and social connections an important criterion in selection was eliminated in 1978. Students who are morally sound and adhere to the four cardinal principles (the socialist road, Communist Party leadership, the people’s democratic dictatorship and Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought) will not be barred from entering on political grounds. This admission principle also applies to erring students who have corrected their mistakes. In fact, almost no students have been rejected simply on political and ideological grounds for the past few years.

Some assert that requiring university students to take part in military training, physical labour and community service is a form of disguised punishment. This is not true.

Military training for university students goes back to before the campus unrest. Article 43 of the Conscription Law of the People’s Republic of China, adopted at the Second Session of the Sixth National People’s Congress in 1984, clearly stipulates: “While studying at institutions of higher education, students must accept military training.”

Since the early 1980s, the State Education Commission has experimented with military training in some universities and colleges.
In 1985 the State Education Commission designated military training as a required course for students at institutions of higher education, and set the syllabus, teaching materials and examinations. This year, 110,000 students in 105 of the nation’s institutions of higher learning have taken part in military training.

This training is geared to qualify people for the modernization drive and as army reserves for national defence. Students in many other countries are also required to participate in military training and university graduates to serve in the army, and there is nothing unusual about this.

Community service is a voluntary student activity which is encouraged by the educational departments. Because the great majority of university students enter higher education institutions directly from senior middle schools, they lack work experience, and hence are deficient in their understanding of society at large and in practical knowledge. Many university students realize this and therefore choose to take up community service.

Military training and community service are not a replica of “learning from the soldiers, workers and peasants” as advocated during the “cultural revolution.” At that time, due to the absurd idea that “knowledge is useless,” these activities took up too much of the students’ time. In the universities where military training is being tried, it only takes seven to eight weeks of the four years, and community service is a vacation activity. Physical labour mainly on campus takes up only one week of a four-year course.

As China advances its reforms, the education system is being improved with it. China’s education will certainly not return to its former model.

Li’s European Tour Successful

China always pays great attention to Europe’s role in world affairs and enjoys “very good” relations with West European countries. It is an important part of Chinese foreign policy to develop relations with European countries, not only in the interests of the people of both sides, but also to foster peace and stability in the world. Chinese President Li Xiannian reiterated these during his state visit to France, Italy, Luxembourg and Belgium. His tour, beginning in Paris on November 9, successfully realized his intentions to enhance friendship, increase understanding and maintain peace. Li said the co-operation and friendly relations between Western Europe and China will create strong possibilities for development.

France has long been associated with China, as the studies and works of such famous Chinese revolutionary leaders as Zhou Enlai, Deng Xiaoping, Chen Yi and Nie Rongzhen show. France was the first country in Western Europe to, and establish diplomatic relation with the People’s Republic of China and to sign agreements of economic, scientific and technological co-operation and an air transport agreement. President Li held important and friendly talks with French President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac.

Reviewing with satisfaction the marked progress of Sino-French exchanges in recent years, marked by frequent exchange visits between the leaders of both countries, constant political consultations between officials at all levels, and steady growth of economic and technological co-operation and scientific and cultural exchanges, both sides expressed their hope to bring about a higher level of bilateral relations.

“We attach great importance to expanding trade and economic relations with France and other West European countries. We hope that French firms and the enterprises of other West European countries will increase their competitiveness to achieve substantial progress in China’s vast market,” said Li.

During Li’s visit, China and France signed a draft agreement on economic and technological co-operation which calls for the French government to lend 1.64 billion francs (about US$280 million) to China in 1987 to finance small and medium-sized projects including the expansion of the Beijing subway.

Italy, which advanced the interchange between China and the West through such great men as Marco Polo, also warmly welcomed Li as the first visiting Chinese leader.

Li exchanged his views on peace, security and disarmament with Italian President Francisco Cossiga and Prime Minister Giovanni Goria, and all expressed hopes for constructive dialogues and the elimination of regional tension in the world.

Both countries have at their origin an ancient civilization with a fine tradition, so it seemed easy for the leaders to find a common ground. Italy’s development from an agricultural country to one of the seven large industrial countries in the West offers a useful example for China. Despite the differences in social system and ideology, the friendship between the two countries has stood the test of time. Three three-year co-operation pacts signed by the two governments now under way have produced positive effects. Sino-Italian trade volume totalled more than US$1.5 billion in 1986, making Italy China’s second largest trading partner in Western
Li's visit to Luxembourg coincided with the 15th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. Li, with the Grand Duke of Luxembourg and Prime Minister Jacques Santer, exchanged opinions on bilateral and international issues of common concern, and on the Tibet issue. Li praised Luxembourg's achievement in national construction and its increasingly important role in international affairs.

China has always maintained that all countries, no matter how big or small, have their strong and weak points and all can contribute to the peace and development of the world. All countries are equal and they should respect each other and enjoy equal rights in international affairs.

For 15 years, political, economic, cultural, scientific and technological exchange and cooperation between the Luxembourg and China have expanded and developed. Luxembourg, a world leader in iron and steel, has provided China with technical and financial assistance which has benefited the modernization of China's iron and
steel industries.

Belgium was the last leg of Li's four-nation European tour. In their talks, King Baudouin, Prime Minister Wilfried Martens and Chinese president particularly stressed the union and construction of Europe. "My visit to the four West European countries following the close of the 13th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party demonstrates that West Europe received much attention in China," said Li. "We hope that Western European countries consolidate their unification to stand as a European community that speaks with one voice as a powerful force striving for world peace."

Since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1971, official and non-official exchanges between the two countries have rapidly developed, especially since the King visited China in 1981. The Sino-Belgian trade volume has increased by about 12 times and the two countries have steadily expanded economic and technological co-operation. Moreover, Belgium has adopted an open attitude to the transfer of technology to China.

Since China's reform and the open policy, its relationship with Western Europe has improved greatly. Mutual trade in 1986 amounted to US$13.1 billion, up 50 percent from the previous year, and scientific, technological, cultural and educational exchanges have expanded. There are now about 6,000 Chinese students studying in West European countries.

Li said his European tour will be conducive not only to the friendship and co-operation between China and the four host countries but also to the development of relations between China and other West European countries.
"There are many problems concerning the treatment of intellectuals, including wages, academic titles and housing," Zhao said. "And even though there have been some improvements over the past few years, problems still exist."

On united front work, Zhao commented, "The 13th National Party Congress will have a profound influence on the country's united front work by uniting more people more closely. "China's united front work should carry two banners, namely, building socialism with Chinese characteristics and encouraging patriotism to reunify and vitalize China."

Political structural reform should give full play to our advantages and eliminate disadvantages, while the policy of multi-party co-operation under the leadership of the Communist Party is one which should be developed, he said.

"The Chinese Communist Party is always ready to hear opinions from non-Communists on how to improve policy and better carry it out."

In answering questions on the reunification of the country, Zhao said the fact that the Taiwan authorities are allowing Taiwan compatriots to visit the mainland is the result of the influence of the mainland's long-time policy of reunifying the motherland according to the concept of "one country, two systems."

He said that with the influx of visitors from Taiwan, exchanges in culture, arts and sports will eventually become the order of the day. The most important thing now, he added, is to do a good job of receiving visitors from Taiwan. This will not only be conducive to developing ties between Taiwan Island and the mainland but will also enhance Taiwan compatriots' confidence in the mainland, increase the pull of the motherland and play a positive role in promoting peaceful reunification.

He called on all democratic parties and patriots to make concerted efforts to overcome all difficulties on the road of advance and help China achieve its goals.
Li and her colleagues is constructive and beneficial, and needs to be extended so that a niche can be found for pop music in China's music realm.

Pop music has long existed in China in the form of folk songs and movie songs, but it almost disappeared during the 1966-76 "cultural revolution." Making its reappearance in the late 1970s, it was branded as the pop music of Hong Kong, Taiwan and Western countries. The pop music with overseas characteristics caused a strong wave of interest in the country, and the tape recorder and cassette industries boomed. It challenged traditional Chinese and classical music and took over much of their market. In the streets, shop loudspeakers feed people with the affectedly sweet love songs performed by Taiwan, Hong Kong and overseas pop stars, or by mainland Chinese imitators.

The wave of overseas pop music has raised nationwide controversy. Some critics and serious musicians claimed the pop music played over street loudspeakers was by no means music.

The controversy still goes on, but many people tend to accept the fact that all sorts of music should co-exist. They also agree with musicians who feel that imitation is not the right line to take: Making China should create its own pop music and improve its traditional music to fit in with the new style.

According to Cai Miaolian, a member of the Guangdong Branch of the China Musicians' Association, Chinese pop music is following two main trends. In the early 1980s, most pop singers were amateurs, but now many professional singers have entered the field and become the dominant stars. This encourages many amateurs to seek training and improve their understanding of music, said Cai. Also many singers have gradually done away with imitation.

by Li Haibo

**Weekly Chronicle (November 16-22)**

**POLITICAL**

November 17
- Zheng Wanshen, press counsellor at the Chinese Embassy in Washington, rejects as slander a charge by US congressman Tom Lantos that the Chinese have "stepped up their repression in Tibet," following the Dalai Lama's visit to the United States. Zheng calls the allegation of "human rights violations" in Tibet "totally false and groundless."

"As for the execution of two Tibetan murderers, Zheng says, "To call such criminals political prisoners is most preposterous and could only be interpreted as an attempt to defend the culprits."

November 18
- A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman says at a weekly news briefing that if the Vatican is sincere about improving its relations with China, it should take practical steps to sever its so-called diplomatic relations with Taiwan, and recognize the government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legitimate government representing all the Chinese people.

**ECONOMIC**

November 16
- Chinese geologists have discovered rich oil and natural gas deposits in the sea basin around the Nansha Islands in the South China Sea after a 40-day survey of the sea floor in an area of 820,000 square kilometres surrounding the islands.

**CULTURAL**

November 18
- Medical workers in Beijing have, for the first time, extracted angiotensin II, a powerful hormone that raises blood pressure, from human white blood cells.

The achievement is significant to the study of the physiology and pathology of white blood cells and will help diagnose and treat high blood pressure, heart disease and apoplexy.

**FOREIGN RELATIONS**

November 19
- A technical co-operation agreement to assist victims of this year's forest fire in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province is signed between China and Federal Germany in Beijing.

Bonn will offer a grant of 20 million marks (about US$12 million) in emergency aid to help provide food, medical equipment, housing and public facilities.
INTERNATIONAL

SOVIET UNION

Afghan War Opposed at Home

*Moscow has talked much about its desire for a political solution to the Afghan and Kampuchean questions, but has done little to show its sincerity.*

Although the Russian word “glasnost” has become widely recognized and the principle of openness has gradually received attention in the Soviet Union, Soviet foreign policy has shown little sign of change, especially with regard to hot spots in Afghanistan and Kampuchea.

Afghanistan

Several French institutions, in co-operation with *Le Point* weekly, recently jointly conducted an opinion poll on various issues with the Soviet Social Institute in Moscow. Of the 1,000 Moscow citizens questioned, 53 percent were in favour of the “complete withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan,” indicating that the war of aggression is very unpopular at home.

The Soviet Union has paid a high price for this eight-year war, not only in terms of international condemnation, but also in materials and lives. It is estimated that the war has cost the country more than US$20 billion in material losses and claimed some 40,000 casualties. And the fate of more than 100,000 Soviet soldiers still in Afghanistan is naturally a serious concern for their parents, wives and children.

In the past year, though often admitting that the Afghan battlefield is an “ever-bleeding wound” and expressing a wish to withdraw from the country, Soviet authorities have done little to support these statements. The United Nations General Assembly on November 10 adopted by an overwhelming majority a resolution on the Afghan issue, the ninth in the past eight years, calling for the immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. The UN move, as well as the above-mentioned poll, indicated that the Kremlin could hoodwink neither the Soviet people nor the international community by paying only lip-service to troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Kampuchea

Not long ago the Soviet newspaper *Trud* (Labour) published an article in defence of the Vietnamese military presence in Kampuchea. One reason presented was, “If Viet Nam now withdraws all its troops from Kampuchea, the young government of Kampuchea will be placed in an extremely difficult position.”

This statement, unlike those of the Vietnamese authorities which try to justify Hanoi’s invasion of Kampuchea, revealed some truth to the world.

Instead of repeating the same old tune sung by Hanoi, proclaiming the puppet regime as the “effective government and legitimate representative of the Kampuchean people,” *Trud* plainly admitted that the existence of the Heng Samrin regime is dependent on the support of the sword of Hanoi. No wonder the writer of the article used the term “extremely difficult position” a complete withdrawal.

The article also cited the “foreign minister” of the puppet regime, Hun Sen, as saying that China once supported the presence of Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea during its fighting against French colonialists and American aggressors. The implication is all too obvious. Why should China oppose the Vietnamese presence of troops in Kampuchea today? Are the editors of the Soviet newspaper so naive that they cannot tell the difference between the invaded and the invaders? Obviously not. Clearly this kind of journalism does not fall in with the ongoing “glasnost” movement in the Soviet Union. Moscow is at its wit’s end trying to find excuses for the invasion of Afghanistan and its support of the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea, so much so that it has to put the cart before the horse.

SOUTH KOREA

Four Main Contenders Vie for Presidency

*South Korea will hold its first direct presidential election in 16 years on December 16. As the election draws near, the race grows increasingly heated.*

South Korea is preparing for a direct presidential election, thanks to the democratic struggles of the South Korean people. Seven contenders have formally registered their candidacy. The four main candidates are Roh Tae Woo of the ruling Democratic Justice Party, Kim Young Sam of the Reunification Democratic Party,
Kim Dae Jung of the Peace and Democracy Party and Kim Jong Pil of the New Democratic Republic Party.

Until recently Kim Dae Jung and Kim Young Sam were both in the Reunification Democratic Party. But they split over which of them would be chosen to campaign as the party’s sole presidential candidate. Kim Dae Jung left and set up the Peace and Democratic Party. At the new party’s inaugural meeting on November 12, he was elected the party’s president and its candidate in the December 16 election.

Since Kim Dae Jung was allowed to resume political activities and joined the Reunification Democratic Party in mid-July, South Koreans expected that he and Kim Young Sam would agree on who would stand as the party’s presidential candidate. According to a public opinion poll conducted by a newspaper, 69 percent of the people polled hoped that this would happen. Ten important young members of the party, from both the Kim Dae Jung and Kim Young Sam factions, jointly signed a letter demanding that the two Kims select a single candidate between them. The petitioners thought that either Kim Dae Jung, who is considered the symbol of the opposition, or Kim Young Sam, who enjoys the reputation of being the expert on South Korean political affairs, could beat the ruling party’s candidate.

People generally hold that if two Kims unite, they will win; divided they will be defeated. But neither 62-year-old Kim Dae Jung nor 60-year-old Kim Young Sam wants to miss what each sees as his last chance to be president. This led to the split. More than 100 well-known advocates of democracy, including university professors and religious figures, have expressed their opposition to the split, although Kim Dae Jung said he would withdraw his candidacy if he thinks the opposition will be defeated.

The reappearance of Kim Jong Pil, who was prime minister during the presidency of Pak Jung Hi and leader of the old Democratic Republic Party, is another sign that the tide of democracy in South Korea cannot be turned back. Kim Jong Pil, who returned to South Korea from the United States early last year, has been keeping a low profile and carrying out activities without raising a big fanfare. He said that with a mandate from the people, he would be ready to make a comeback. However, public opinion holds that it would be hard for him to stage a comeback in the election.

It is interesting that Roh Tae Woo, a key backer of Chun Du Hwan’s autocratic military rule, has professed his readiness to support democracy. He said he would obey the wishes of the people and that only he can end military rule in South Korea. Although his statements and his recent visits to the United States and Japan have had some effect, he retains his bad image. And his refusal of the two Kims’ demand that a neutral cabinet be established to ensure a fair and just election has caused him new difficulties. On a recent tour around South Korea, he was spat at and cursed by the people. Nevertheless, it should be noted that Roh retains a decided edge over his rivals.

by Zhou Bizhong

ANGOLA

Pretoria Takes Dangerous Step

South Africa’s recent military incursion into Angola has been condemned by African countries and the international community.

South Africa has stepped up its aggression against Angola. This dangerous move has intensified tension throughout southern Africa.

The chief of South Africa’s army, General Jannie Geldenhuys, announced on November 11 that South African regular forces had entered Angola’s Cuando-Cubango Province to support the anti-government forces of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). The incursion into Angola was one of Pretoria’s biggest in the 12 years since Angola achieved independence.

Angolan Armed Forces Chief Antonio dos Franca said 230 South African soldiers have been killed during heavy fighting in recent weeks, and 11 tanks, 24 armoured vehicles and 35 planes have been destroyed.

Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos said on November 15 that more than 3,000 troops were still in southern Angola while 30,000 more troops supported by 435 tanks and 80 aircraft were stationed in neighbouring South Africa-occupied Namibia, poised to cross the border into Angola.

South African Defence Minister Magnus Malan disclosed on November 14 that he, South African President P.W. Botha and three other ministers entered southern Angola for a day during the military operation to demonstrate Pretoria’s “involvement” and “personal responsibility” in the affair.

The outrageous incursion drew condemnation from leaders of the frontline states of southern Africa at their summit meeting in the Angolan capital of Luanda on November 15.

BEIJING REVIEW, NOV. 30-DEC. 6, 1987
UNITA's 12-year war against the government has been a tragedy for the Angolan people and has badly hurt the national economy. The war has cost 60,000 lives and US$12 billion in damage and other losses. The United Nations has estimated that the country has 690,000 displaced people and 1 million destitute people in the cities, who required 242,000 tons of food aid and US$115 million worth of other aid.

Cuando-Cubango Province, which borders Namibia, is a UNITA stronghold. Since last August, Angolan government troops have been waging fierce offensives in the area against UNITA, with noticeable success. South Africa's direct intervention is a desperate attempt to save UNITA from possible defeat. But the military adventure has served only to expose Pretoria, which had all along denied giving direct military support to UNITA.

South Africa's raid on Angola took place only a day after the UN Security Council adopted a resolution calling for a ceasefire in the 21-year Namibian war to pave the way for Namibian independence. The raid is an outright rejection of the resolution, the 19th since 1966, when the UN revoked South Africa's mandate to administer the territory.

South African UN delegate Leslie Manley sang a familiar tune at the Security Council's November 12 meeting, demanding the withdrawal of 35,000 Cuban troops from Angola as a precondition for Namibian independence. Such a formula has the blessing of the United States but has been widely condemned by the international community.

The South African incursion, instead of diverting world attention from the Namibian question, has again revealed the stubborn attitude of the Pretoria regime. Observers point out that any attempt by Pretoria to "internationalize" the military conflict in Angola would only further complicate the problem and would entail grave consequences for all of southern Africa and the world. Implementing the Security Council's 1978 resolution on Namibian independence is the only way to set the stage for regional peace and development.

by Ye Zhixiong

SPAIN-US

Defence Treaty Not to Be Renewed

Negotiations between Spain and the United States over a new defence co-operation treaty will be tough since the interests of both sides may not fully coincide.

On November 10 the Spanish government officially notified the United States that it would not renew their friendship, defence and co-operation agreement which will terminate on May 14, 1988.

This is a significant event in the history of bilateral relations between the two countries. The decision means the two governments must reach a new agreement within the next six months before the agreement's termination date. Failing this the United States will be forced to withdraw its troops and dismantle its four bases, seven communications facilities, two observation posts and an ammunition depot in Spain within a year of the agreement's expiry, with further implications for bilateral relations.

The present agreement, first signed in 1953 under the dictatorship of General Francisco Franco and renewed many times since, allows the United States to maintain its four military bases and station more than 10,000 US military and technical personnel on Spanish territory.

Since taking power in July 1982, the Spanish Socialist Workers' government has stressed efforts to rid the country of the last vestiges of the Franco era and establish equal relations with Washington. Profound changes have taken place in Spain in recent years. In January last year it formally became a member of the European Community. Two months later, a national referendum approved Spain's continued membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on the condition that the United States remove a substantial part of its force from Spain, and that Spain not join in NATO's military institutions nor introduce nuclear weapons into its territory.

Spain has begun to shift its focus of defence co-operation from the United States to Western Europe. Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez Marquez recently held talks on European integration with leaders of Western Europe. He showed special interest in the defence co-operation between France and the Federal Republic of Germany, expressing hopes that Spain might join in the cooperation. Spain is also seeking membership in the West European Union, a military organization without US participation.

Since the establishment of the democratic process in Spain, there has been a growing opposition to US military presence in the country. In order to ensure continued support from the voters, the socialist government must fulfil promises it made in last year's referendum to re-establish defence ties with the United States and reduce US military presence in the country.
The United States, on the other hand, has found it hard to meet the Spanish government's demands. Washington considers the military bases in Spain an important part of the Atlantic defence chain, which ensures US control not only of the Strait of Gibraltar and the Atlantic sea lanes but also the whole Mediterranean. It also found it could not accept the Spanish demands for the withdrawal of all 72 US F-16 fighter bombers stationed at the Torrejon base outside the capital Madrid and five KC-135 tanker planes at the Zaragoza base.

Another factor is that the result of the negotiations between the United States and Spain will have a direct impact on US negotiations with other countries, such as Greece. The United States has not been willing to make concessions. In the final analysis, the United States wants to play the role of protector of Western Europe, in the light of an agreement on intermediate-range missiles to be signed between the superpowers this December.

The negotiations are expected to be tough as the two governments must break their 16-month deadlock and reach an agreement acceptable to both sides within six months.

by Yu Guangsheng

US-BRAZIL

Trade Friction Heats Up

Brazil is angry about trade sanctions imposed by the United States in apparent retaliation for measures that protect Brazil's computer market.

US President Ronald Reagan has ratified trade sanctions against Brazil which raise the tariffs on some of Brazil's exports to the United States and prohibit imports of certain Brazilian computer products. The measures aim at forcing Brazil to suspend "unfair trading practices" that bar US companies from the South American country's computer market.

The Brazilian Foreign Ministry issued an immediate statement denouncing the sanctions as absurd. The same day, November 13, Brazilian Finance Minister Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira said that the US move is completely unreasonable and that Brazil will not yield on the issue. And President Jose Sarney condemned the United States for violating its obligations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Sarney demanded compensation for Brazil's losses and ordered a study of possible counter-measures against US imports.

Trade frictions between the United States and Brazil date from 1984, when the Brazilian Congress enacted a law to protect its computer market for eight years. The law which aims to keep out products that are within the technological capacity of national enterprises was met by strong US opposition. Washington said Brazil had violated the principle of free trade.

In the past year, the two governments have held several consultations through diplomatic channels. The United States has exerted continuous pressure, but Brazil refused to make concessions and frictions increased. The new US sanctions have added fuel to the fire.

The computer industry is the most rapidly developing sector of Brazil's economy, involving more than 300 national enterprises and 30 joint ventures in the country. The industry basically meets domestic needs for small and medium-sized computers and related products except software, which must still be imported. The output value of the computer industry is rising by 30 percent a year. Last year's output value was US$4.6 billion, almost 22.5 times the 1977 figure.

Computers are widely used in the fields of banking, statistics, industrial design, agricultural science, commerce, aviation, production of munitions and scientific research, all of which are closely linked to national security and development. Protective measures aimed at upgrading the computer industry and eliminating dependence on imported computers correspond not only to Brazil's immediate needs but also to its long-range national interests.

The United States is Brazil's largest trade partner. US companies play a leading role in the global computer industry, and US computer products used to be the best-selling in Brazil. Since the protective measures were adopted, imports of US computers have been greatly restricted. It is estimated that US computer companies have already lost US$1.5 billion and will lose an additional US$8 billion in the next five years.

In recent years, the US foreign trade deficit has increased sharply. The trade sanctions against Brazil are just one of its measures to shift the burden of the crisis to developing countries.

The US-Brazil trade friction reflects the struggle between pro- and anti-monopolism between the developed and developing countries. The United States does its utmost to defend its technological superiority and dump its technological goods in Brazil, while Brazil has an urgent need to develop its economy and technology in order to get rid of its dependence on foreign countries.

by Wu Zhihua
DELIBERATIONS ON CHINA'S 2ND REVOLUTION (IV)

Different Interest Groups Under Socialism

The advance of China's reform will inevitably accelerate the redistribution of interests in the society. The benefits accruing from the reform cannot come to everyone in equal measure.

by Luo Rongxing, Zhu Huaxin and Cao Huanrong

A survey conducted in Shanghai in 1986 asked: What kind of people in your age bracket do you think are best off? All the respondents thought their own incomes were the lowest, suggesting that people underestimate their own incomes and overestimate other people's, and that everyone feels left out of some "grand handout." An indisputable fact in China today is that there exist different interest groups whose understanding of the objective situation is different, and that the interest structure and distribution pattern are gradually being replaced by new rational ones.

The socialist system has the advantage of being best able to identify the interests of the people with those of the society as a whole, but there are still differences of interests between different groups of people.

Before the reform, people "ate from the same big pot," all units and individuals received what was decided by the state. Influenced by "Leftism," the masses and cadres were all easily led away from a recognition of the divergence in interests between different groups in the community; contradictions and conflicts between people were crammed bag and baggage under the rubric of "class struggle."

Since 1978, however, the reform has diversified forms of public ownership, stimulated the growth of individual, private and other economic sectors, developed commodities and money relations, upgraded the role of market regulation, and broken away from the absolute egalitarian distribution system. All this has meant that interest relations have changed in every respect—making them more varied, complex and above all more apparent than ever.

Li Jun of the Research Institute of China's Economic Reform believes that reasonable changes in interests are good for the development of society. "It would be meaningful progress for us to recognize and understand that different interest groups do exist in our society," he says. "We would also have to make efforts to coordinate and sort out the contradictions which spring from this."

With the reform, things are changing and the different interest groups in society are also constantly metamorphosing.

In the countryside, the number of farmers in the classic sense is shrinking. Many farmers have turned to working in rural enterprises, growing cash crops, engaging in animal husbandry, doing business or working temporarily in the cities. Households engaging in traditional handicrafts, specialized households, companies integrating agriculture with industry and commerce, privately owned concerns and so on—all have interests of their own.

In the cities, people involved in industries and enterprises with different forms of ownership have different interests.

The interests of government employees and intellectuals have diverged with the reforms to the personnel system. Now professional and technical personnel often work under contract, and have opportunities to find extra jobs as consultants in the countryside or even establish private research institutes.

Then there are the very complex relationships of interest between town and countryside, cadres and masses, the various professions, different age groups, people with different educational levels, central and local governments, the coastal areas and the hinterland, raw material-producing and goods-processing areas, and sellers and buyers. All these interest relationships are shifting, creating new contradictions and conflicts which must be taken into account when considering China's economic and political reforms.

Yang Guangshan, who is in charge of national social surveys, has published the findings of a dozen large-scale surveys on reactions to the reform. They show that the different interest groups make different demands of the reform, and therefore feel differently about the present state of affairs.

Thus cadres—including responsible members in units, ordinary cadres in enterprises and administrative departments, primary and middle school teachers, specialists of various kinds and university students—all hope to see a rise in their social status through the reform. On the other hand, factory workers, people in commercial and service trades, the self-employed, and middle school students all look to greater
freedom to choose jobs, be promoted, make money, and compete on an equal footing. They also hope for an increase in income. The more hopes the cadres and the masses pin on the reform, the less things seem satisfactory.

It was also found that university students placed the greatest demands on the reform, and the responsible members of work units the least.

The surveys show that adaptability to the reforms among the different groups also varies. In the eight categories of people surveyed, the percentage of farmers who preferred the system that allows for more risks but also for more money was 16, the highest; the percentage of workers was 10, ranking fifth; people in commerce and the service trades, 7 percent, placed 6th. This reveals the lingering influence of the old egalitarian distribution system on these people.

The researchers conclude from the data that the overwhelming majority of people support the reform, but resent the unsolved problems. That resentment also is not uniform. When the prices rose, city residents worried mostly about food prices, farmers about the price rises for tools and fertilizers. Among the city people, residents in the biggest cities are the most dissatisfied with the price hikes.

The same goes for the question of democracy and freedom. Some younger intellectuals evince a strong interest in the political implications of the reform. Workers and people in commerce and the service trades put more emphasis on freer choice of work.

The researchers advocate letting these differing demands become apparent so that people can see the situation more clearly and not sink into blind dissatisfaction, and so that they can better understand the government's decisions.

The reform will not be able to please all of the people all of the time. However, over time as the interest patterns shift, benefits should accrue to everyone. Many of the changes are precisely what was intended by the reform. For example, smashing the system of "eating from the same big pot" is intended to bring reward to the diligent, and punishment to the laggards.

But in the process of reaching the desired goal, some unreasonable results will appear due to inevitable imperfections in the reform measures. Right now those "wielding scalpels" earn less than those "wielding razors," but this need not lead to knee-jerk alterations in the orientation of the reform.

There are also those who are simply taking advantage of deficiencies in the new system. For example, some individual producers and traders seek exorbitant profits by illegal means. However such negative effect can be eliminated only by perfecting and deepening the reform.

China's reform is a special social project, which is so complex that it cannot be conducted flawlessly in tailor-made conditions. During the reform, divergences of views and conflicts among different groups of people are inevitable. Almost all socialist countries have met these problems in their reforms. In a socialist society, though contradictions among different interest groups do exist and may proliferate, they will not change the fundamental system of socialism and its basic values. If these contradictions are well handled, they will not damage the stability of the society.

In short, we must recognize the existence of different interest groups which conflict and converge, and realize that in the end that very multitude of interests constitutes the general societal interest.

The Communist Party of China and the government have set out to create an atmosphere in which opinions and criticism can be exchanged frankly, allowing true social contradictions to be exposed. Only in the process of solving contradictions can the environment be created which promotes further solutions and pushes the reform forward healthily.

(End of Series)

People's Mediation Unique to China

by Han Yue, Wang Yan, and Our Correspondent Yang Xiaobing

People's mediation committees, to be found in both urban and rural areas, allow for problems to be handled before they become bitter legal proceedings. Mediation committees are mass organizations of self-education and self-management, and they use democratic consultation as a major method in handling civil disputes in accordance with the law. However, it has no bearing should a case be taken to the court.

Types of Disputes Handled
Marriage disputes. Xiao Zhao, a resident in Shehui Road, Beijing, was sent to a reform-through-
labour camp because he had committed hooliganism. After he had served his term and returned home early last year, he found that his girl friend of four years’ standing had married another man. Xiao Zhao began to entertain ideas of revenge—killing the girl and himself.

Members of the mediation committee in Shehui Road were made aware of Xiao Zhao’s case, and acquainted themselves with the details after inquiries. Then the committee members helped Xiao Zhao to straighten out his muddled thinking. They held an emergency meeting and assigned him guardians in case he tried doing anything stupid. In the next three months, director Cai, an elderly woman, and committee members went to see Xiao Zhao every day, helped him with his chores and patiently explained to him the marriage law which allows freedom of marriage. At the same time, they reported the situation to the judicial section of the subdistrict office and sent someone to Xiao Zhao’s former girl friend’s work unit to make more inquiries.

They asked the woman and her husband who were out of the way elsewhere to return. After careful preparations, the committee members, and people from the subdistrict office, the local police station and the judicial office mediated in the dispute face-to-face. At the mediation meeting Xiao Zhao gave up any idea of revenge. His former girl friend apologised to him and offered to pay him back for everything he had spent on her. This marriage dispute was solved to the satisfaction of both parties.

Property disputes. Not long ago Wang Tianen, an overseas Chinese residing in the Philippines, came to visit his relatives in the city of Quanzhou, Fujian Province, and presented a silk banner to the Linjiang neighbourhood mediation group, as thanks for solving his dispute. Wang’s father bought a building in Quanzhou more than three decades ago for Wang who later went abroad. He lent out his building to Zhang, a relative. After Zhang’s death, Wang wanted to take back the building.

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Wang lodged an appeal last year with the administrative body handling overseas Chinese affairs, and later his appeal was forwarded to the Linjiang neighbourhood mediation group. Shi Dezhi of the mediation group visited many households in the area and found the dossier at the local housing management and the public security departments. She discovered that Wang did have the right to the house. Zhang’s son realized he had no claim and returned the building to Wang Tianen.

Economic disputes. The Li Dexing brick baking team in Yongnian County, Hebei Province, signed a lease for a plot of
land with the Niucun Village of Dingxian County. After two months of preparations, the unfired bricks were put into the kiln ready to be fired. However, some residents of Niucun Village felt that the contract should be altered and the rent increased. They forcibly prevented the team from lighting the fire.

The Niucun mediation committee questioned the parties concerned, and examined the contract with a judicial assistant and village public security commissioner. They criticized the people of the Niucun Village and explained to them that the contract has legal effect and must not be violated. The villagers apologised, and the kiln was lighted that very day.

**Basic System**

To date, 97 percent of urban neighbourhood committees and 98 percent of rural village committees have set up mediation organizations. The number of such mediation committees totals 950,000 (including 190,000 in factories, mines and enterprises), staffed by 6 million mediators.

From 1981 to 1986 these committees mediated in 40 million disputes, or about ten times the number of civil cases handled by people's courts at the grass-roots level. The success rate was over 80 percent, thus preventing many disputes from escalating into criminal or suicidal extremes. In 1986 the mediation work prevented a possible 106,013 unnatural deaths.

The people's mediation system is an important part of China's legal system. As early as 1954 the Government Administration Council (the predecessor of the State Council—Tr.) promulgated the "Provisional Organizational Rules on People's Mediation Committees," and a new law concerning the mediation system is being drafted now.

Mediation committees are mass organizations established under the guidance of the people's governments and courts at the grass-roots level. If a mediation committee violates the law, the local people's government or court may correct it afterwards, but it should not interfere earlier.

A mediation committee is usually composed of three to seven members, who in the urban areas are directly elected by the residents under the guidance of the grass-roots governments; and in the rural areas they are elected by the township people's congresses. They can be re-elected. Many of the mediators are elderly people who are fair and just in handling affairs and find it a pleasure to help others. There are also some retired government officials.

Hai Mingzhen, a mediator of Weizhou Village in Tongxin County, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, held the posts of the township head, district head and deputy director of a tribunal during his career. In 1981 he retired and returned to his hometown to be elected a mediator and has since mediated in several hundred disputes.

The government has attached great importance to the training of mediators. Last year the Ministry of Justice ran training classes for mediators. Judicial and administrative organs at different levels have also trained 44,000 judicial assistants and 3.66 million mediators (73 percent and 59 percent respectively of the total).

Led by the government, the mediators have themselves attended to their professional competence. Lin Hezhen, a 57-year-old retired worker, is a mediator of the Gaoqiao Street in Nanchang. She has bought books on law, subscribed to newspapers and magazines on the legal system and tried her best to mediate in dispute according to law. Since 1979 she has mediated in nearly 100 disputes. All the disputes she helped solve tally with the law.

Mediation committees have also adhered to the principle of free and voluntary appeal. The disputants may reject mediation or its findings in favour of the court. The mediation agreement reached does not have the force of law and, like a contract, applies only to the parties concerned. The agreement must be conscientiously implemented by the persons concerned. The advantages of mediation are flexibility. If a dispute arises, the mediator will talk to the people concerned and try to bring them round to mediation. In the light of different conditions, the mediator may work privately or publicly.

Mediation committees have cooperated well with other organizations at the grass-roots level. In this way they can prevent the dispute from becoming acute and help improve the social and economic situation in underdeveloped areas.

In the past, because of the friction among villagers in Beixin Village of Pingshun County, Shanxi Province, morale dropped and production remained backward. The mediators in the village cooperated with the local Party and government organizations to help the villagers seek new ways of getting income. They helped extricate the village from poverty. Since 1973 no criminal cases have arisen in the village.
Education Behind Bars

by Our Correspondent Li Ning

The inmates of Hebei No.1 Prison are undergoing reform through labour and through education: evening classes. There they study politics, literacy, law, and skills such as welding, machinery design, tailoring and rabbit breeding. The prison has recently been made a special school.

In the last two years, close to one-third of the prisons in China have been made special schools.

Reform Through Education

According to Shao Guixin from the Labour Reform Administrative Bureau under the Ministry of Justice, education in the special schools aims to reform the students. Through education, they are expected to “clean” their criminal ways, learn about and abide by the law, and turn over a new leaf.

In the past, prisoners received only political education in the hope that they would admit their guilt and better reform themselves. But now China’s Ministry of Justice has decided to couple the traditional practice of reform through labour with special education in culture and skills in order to produce people useful to society and the state.

In these special schools, political study takes up 40 percent of the time, general culture and skills courses divide the rest of the time equally.

Skills. In the past, technical education was confined to the specific production field in which a prison was engaged. To prepare prisoners for employment outside the walls, some 6,200 classes have started up catering to 36 percent of the prison population.

Eager to Learn

The warders at Hebei’s No.1 Prison believe that strict control alone is not enough for reforming prisoners, it is also necessary to fire their enthusiasm for study. They must learn to know themselves and build up their self-confidence and the sense of self-respect, and proceed from there to respect other people. In this way, former criminals will become people useful to society.

This is all very well but the practical problems involved are obvious. Xi Shuangcheng, sentenced to 15 years’ imprisonment in 1983 for seriously wounding a person in an attack, showed no interest in study. Officer Li approached him many times to persuade him to study. Li said, “You can’t read and write. If you use the 15 years in prison now, you’ll be an entirely different person when you are released.”
Finally Xi began devoting himself to his classes, and learnt to operate a lathe in five months. He could read newspapers and write letters after six months' study. Because of his diligence, his sentence was reduced by three years. This served as an excellent impetus for others in the prison.

Like Xi, Zhang Xiaowei refused to study when he was first put in jail. The officers asked his family to talk to him. "We hope you will repent and make a fresh start, and work and study hard in order to get your sentence mitigated," said Zhang's brother. The truth came home to Zhang as he watched other people being let out early. "I have no reason to waste my time in prison," he said. "I should study hard."

The Hebei No.1 Prison was named the Peicai (training people) School in 1985 by the Hebei Provincial Educational Bureau. The school is a three-storey building, complete with an audio room, a video room and a library with over 20,000 volumes.

Political courses are taught on two evenings a week through a cable television system. The students watch in the classrooms, and receive guidance from the teachers in their study after the screenings. This is common practice in many prison schools. Generally, however, these schools do not have adequate facilities. Often the technical courses must be taught in the cells. The government is making effort to change the situation.

Prisoner Teachers

Some of the better educated prisoners are appointed teachers of these behind-bars schools. Of the 170 teachers at the Peicai School, 140 are prisoners, eight of them full-time teachers.

Zhang Guoyu is one of the eight. Before he was sentenced to death with two years' reprieve for rape in December 1984, Zhang was a high school teacher in Qinhuangdao City with 26 years' experience.

Soon after his arrival at the prison, Zhang was made a full-time teacher. "This was a surprise to me," he said. "Now I teach middle school maths and tutor some higher maths. Although I don't have freedom, I have my own world — an office and books. I'm happy to share my knowledge with my students in this special school."

In the last two years, Zhang has devised many teaching books running to 1.47 million words. His death sentence was withdrawn and 18 years' imprisonment imposed instead. "I must work harder for a further cut into my sentence," said Zhang with conviction.

The No.1 Prison runs a college-level programme for some of its prisoners. The class teaches 24 courses on machine tools, and the teachers come from a university. In the last three years, 37 students averaging 23 years of age, completed their 3,200 hours of study, and 36 of them graduated with good grades. Three have been recruited as teachers or technicians at the school, the rest have been assigned to work in various workshops as technicians.

The prison has a hospital, in which eight of the doctors are inmates themselves.

Benefits

These studies have allowed prisoners who have reached the level of middle school or high school graduate to receive a diploma from the government-run Adult Educational Bureau. Those who have passed technical examinations receive a certificate. Having most prisoners working towards a diploma or certificate is good for order in the prison.

The prisoners' families respond too. In the past, they often brought food and cigarettes, now they send books and stationery.

• Creating social wealth. The Hebei prison is a comprehensive labour reform enterprise, complete with a machine tool plant (annual capacity of 1,000 C-620 lathes), a printing house specialized in printing university examination papers, a ceramics factory, a furniture factory and a farm where pigs, rabbits, deer and chickens are raised. Under the guidance of the warders, the prisoners apply what they have learnt in the classrooms to production, and make products as advanced as any in the province. Some even introduce technical innovations.

• Employment on the outside. Assigning ex-prisoners to jobs is a problem because units tend to reject them and more importantly because many of them know almost nothing about technology. But those who have studied culture and technology in prison find they have many more opportunities.

Ma Zhengang was quite illiterate when he was incarcerated. He studied and laboured hard. After he became head of a machine tool maintenance group, the group made some 100,000 yuan a year in production costs. Between 1984 and June 1986, the prisoners made 312 innovations earning 1.57 million yuan in the process.

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"It is the prison school which has rehabilitated me into a useful member of society. I must work hard in the future to contribute to the four modernizations," said Ma with tears in eyes when he left prison.
A DIALOGUE ON TIBET (IV)

Government Aids Tibet's Development

Question: What assistance has the state rendered Tibet?  
Answer: Our Party and government strive to achieve common progress and prosperity for all nationalities. While Tibet's socialist construction relies mainly on the efforts of the various peoples within Tibet, assistance from the state is indispensable. To help Tibet quickly extricate itself from poverty and backwardness, the government has helped the region generously with manpower, funds and materials:

1. Between 1952 and 1986 the state allocated Tibet over 10,000 million yuan in financial subsidies.

2. From 1952 to June this year, the central government invested 3,430 million yuan in Tibet's capital construction. More than 40 major projects have gone into operation since 1984. Built with assistance from nine provinces and municipalities they range from energy, transport and communications to education and culture.

3. Between 1979 and 1986 the subsidies given by the central government to Tibet totalled 5,910 million yuan. They included funds for underdeveloped areas, capital construction subsidies for minority areas, frontier area development and relief funds.

4. Since 1980, Tibet has been exempted from agricultural and animal husbandry taxes, and from the industrial and commercial consolidated taxes levied on collective and private industrial and commercial businesses. They would total 10 million yuan a year if levied.

5. In 1983, the central government sent 378 million yuan's worth of goods to Tibet. Between 1979 and 1983 the state allocated 484 million yuan's worth of construction materials to Tibet. Material assistance totalled 300,000 tons in 1983 and rose to more than 450,000 tons in 1984.

6. Loans offered to Tibetan farmers and herdsmen have increased considerably.

7. Altogether 21,500 km of highways have been built in Tibet. With the one exception of Medog County, all counties in the autonomous region have bus services.

8. With the help of the state, cultural and educational undertakings in Tibet have developed apace. The region now boasts three institutions of higher education, 14 secondary technical schools, 64 middle schools and 2,380 primary schools. All the county- and prefecture-run key primary and middle schools provide the students with free meals, clothing and lodging. The State Council recently held its second Tibet assistance work conference where it laid down the policy of developing Tibet's educational undertakings by giving it "intellectual" support. Sixteen developed provinces and cities have opened classes for Tibetan children, and preparations are being made to establish three Tibetan middle schools to train Tibetans specifically for the social and economic construction of the region.

9. From 1973 to June this year over 10 provinces and municipalities sent medical teams comprising 2,623 people to Tibet. The region now has 95 hospitals at and above the county level and 770 medical institutions.

10. To promote freedom of religious belief, the state has, since 1980, allocated a large sum of money to renovate monasteries in Tibet.

The state has never made any financial claims on Tibet. All the money allocated by the state to Tibet was used in local construction and in improving the local people's living standards. The expenses of the army stationed in Tibet come out of the national military expenditure.

Q: What changes have taken place in Tibet over the past 30 years?  
A: Tremendous changes have taken place in Tibet in all fields since the democratic reform of 1959.

1. Agricultural production and livestock breeding have developed considerably. In 1985, their total output value amounted to 909 million yuan, an increase of over 70 percent from 1965. The region's total grain output that year was 531.5 million kg, 2.9 times that of 1959. Animals in stock by the end of 1985 totalled 21 million head, a 2.3-fold increase over 1959. Today, the region's per-capita annual grain output is nearly 300 kg, and each person contributes an average of over 100 kg of meat and dairy products a year. The per-capita income of Tibetan farmers and herdsmen now averages 350 yuan.

In 1986, Tibet was hit by a serious drought, a plague of insects, and low temperatures and early frost, which resulted in a slight decrease in grain output. However, the animal headage increased, reaching 22.57 million, and the output value of the region's animal herding topped 400 million yuan, a record.

Other aspects of life in the region have also developed rapidly, and the people's living standards have improved. In 1986, the region's income from diversified management reached 21 million yuan, one-third of its total income from agriculture and livestock breeding. Township enterprises in the region have developed quickly, and now number 24,000. Their total income has exceeded 100 million yuan, accounting for 18 percent of the region's total income from...
agricultural production and livestock breeding.

2. Industry has developed from scratch. Last year, the region's total industrial output value topped 160 million yuan. Tibet now has over 250 small and medium-sized industrial enterprises which are involved in light industry, mining, construction, wool spinning, paper-making, printing and the production of building materials, electric power and foodstuffs. National handicrafts have also flourished.

3. There was no highway in Tibet before liberation. Today, a network of highways totalling 21,000 km has been forged. With Lhasa at the centre, major highways to Sichuan, Qinghai, Xinjiang and Yunnan radiate in four directions. Air services now link Lhasa with Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu, Xian and Guangzhou, and the Tibet Aviation Co. has been established.

4. Before liberation, there were only a few schools in Tibet and they were for the children of the nobility. Now the region has three institutions of higher education, 14 secondary technical schools, 64 middle schools and 2,300 primary schools, with a total enrolment of 148,000 students.

5. Before liberation there were in Tibet only a few traditional Tibetan medical establishments. These were exclusive outfits which served only the nobles and high-ranking officials. Today the region has 770 hospitals and other medical institutions with a total of 4,980 beds. Each prefecture has established a traditional Tibetan hospital, and all farmers, herdsmen and urban residents now enjoy free medical services.

6. Traditional national culture has been drawn upon and developed, and importance has been attached to the use of the spoken and written Tibetan language. From 1980 to 1986 more than 600 titles were published in the Tibetan language, and the study of Tibetan history, culture and social sciences has registered notable advances.

7. By the end of 1986 the region had established seven radio broadcasting and relay stations which cover 30 percent of the area of Tibet. There are also three television relay stations, 68 small ground satellite stations and 84 video-tape relay stations which cover 32 percent of the Tibet area.

8. A total of 234 monasteries and 743 places of religion have been renovated and opened. The region now has 14,320 Buddhist monks and nuns, and 331 Living Buddhas. All believers are free to attend religious activities.

9. The people's living standards have improved constantly. Luxury goods can be found in the homes of many Tibetans. By last May, their bank deposits had reached 1.54 billion yuan. About half of the farmers in over 20 counties on the banks of Yarlung Zhangbo River have moved into new houses. More than 90 percent of the Tibetan farmers have grain in stock.

10. A large number of ethnic minority cadres have been trained. Tibet now has 25,600 specialist and technical personnel, and 15,200 of them are Tibetan and other minority people, accounting for 59.26 percent of the total.

Q: Were there any mistakes made in the work in Tibet over the past 30 years? What are the major problems facing Tibet's economic development?

A: Our work in Tibet has experienced twists and turns in the past 30 years. For a time, mainly during the "cultural revolution," "leftist" thinking disrupted production and construction in Tibet, the people's living standards did not improve, and many monasteries were damaged or destroyed.

The main problems now facing economic progress in Tibet are that, compared with other parts of China, Tibet's natural conditions are more hostile, its production level is low, people's income is limited, there is a strain on the energy supply and transport facilities, the educational basis is poor so there is a shortage of trained personnel, and the managerial methods in enterprises and government undertakings are inefficient. All these problems can only be solved gradually with constant efforts in the coming years.

PROFILE OF TIBET (IV)

Traditional Culture Developed

by Our Correspondent Wu Naitao

One August evening this year, this correspondent went to see a song and dance performance at the Lhasa Theatre. There the ancient religious dances and the tasteful palace music langma were staged. Li Yaping, a local official from the cultural department, says that to carry forward these rich national arts, professionals have recently conducted extensive surveys in Tibet, which have recorded several dozen traditional dances. During my one-month stay I found that attention has been paid not only to the unique performing arts but also to other aspects of Tibetan culture.
Tibetan Studies

The Tibetan nationality has a recorded history of more than 1,300 years. Hand scrolls, wooden tablets, stone carvings, and volumes printed with the technology introduced from the interior form useful primary sources for the study of Tibet. The Tibetan Academy of Social Sciences is a research centre for Tibetan studies where a group of accomplished Tibetan scholars and a vast accumulation of ancient literature are gathered. Much of the material consists of handwritten books not found anywhere else in the country.

The Tibetan Academy of Social Sciences began in 1981 to publish Tibetan Research, a quarterly in Tibetan and Chinese, which carries articles on research into the history of Tibet. It is much valued by Chinese and foreign scholars specializing in Tibet. Chinlei Doje, editor-in-chief of the quarterly, says that in the academy Tibetans account for 90 percent of the researchers. Some are people who graduated after liberation but there are also much older scholars. They can write treatises in Tibetan and Chinese. According to Chinlei Doje, the editorial board of Tibetan Research has in the past two years edited and published Chronicles of Tibet, Historical Data on Tibet Recorded in the Ming Dynasty, Historical Data on Tibet Recorded During the Qing Dynasty and other books, totaling 6 million words. These publications have made valuable contributions to the study of Tibet.

Recently, the Tibetan Ancient Book Publishing House published The Origin and Development of the Religion of Deu. The author of the book, Gebadeu, was a 12th century Living Buddha of the Red Sect. The book records the religious history of Tubo’s rule over the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau from the 7th to the 9th centuries. Its reproduction should add considerably to the wider understanding of the ancient history of Tibet. This book is one of the Snow City Series (local people call Tibet “snow city” or the “land of snows”). According to the publishing house, since its founding two years ago, it has collected from Xian and Beijing cities, Sichuan, Qinghai and Gansu provinces more than 100 ancient books from which it plans to reprint some for their notable academic value. The central government has earmarked more than 1 million yuan for the collection, collation and publication of the Snow City Series.

In August last year, a Tibet studies symposium was held in Lhasa, where old and young scholars presented papers. According to Doje, many new ideas, well-thought-out and researched, were raised at the symposium.

Doje showed me a paper entitled “The First Tibetan King Nyachi Zainbo Was a Tibetan.” Qabie Cedin Puncog, the author, is vice-president of the Tibetan Academy of Social Sciences. Based on literature in the Dunhuang ancient Tibetan language, the book Origin and Development of the Enigmatic Language of the Wise, written in the 12th century and other historical documents, the paper set out to solve the puzzle of the pedigree of the first ten Tibetan kings from Songzain Gambo. This paper created quite a stir at the symposium.

It was decided to hold another symposium on Tibet to which scholars from all over the country would be invited. Preparations may well be under way.

In January 1986, Ma Jiu, vice-president of the Tibetan Academy
of Social Sciences, and Doje were invited to the United States to attend an international symposium on the languages, culture and history of China’s minority nationalities. A total of 36 scholars from four continents attended. Ma Jiu’s paper “On the Reincarnation of the First Living Buddha” discussed the origin and influence of the reincarnation system of Living Buddhas.

Chinlei Doje’s paper “On Ooije Pagba’s New Year Greetings to Emperor Kublai Khan” discussed Ooije Pagba (1235-1280) who was the fifth founder of the Sagya Sect of Tibetan Buddhism and had conferred on him the title “state tutor” by the Yuan Dynasty emperor (1271-1368). He was in charge of the religious and administrative affairs of Tibet. The author discovered that for a period of 26 years Pagba wrote the New Year greetings to Emperor Kublai Khan in the capacity of a minister and in accordance with the rites of the Yuan Dynasty, and explained Pagba’s contributions to the unification of China. Doje believes that Ooije Pagba was a great statesman, playing a role akin to Songzain Gambo in the history of Tibet. The paper of the two Tibetan scholars were well received by the participants at the symposium.

Doje says that in the past two decades, research institutions on Tibet have been set up in many countries and several international symposia have been held on the topic. Now at last Tibet has sent its scholars to attend a Tibet symposium abroad; Doje is convinced that there will be more frequent contacts with foreign and Tibetan scholars and Tibet will naturally become the universally acknowledged centre of Tibetan studies.

The Language Develops

Over the millennia the Tibetan people have created their splendid unique culture. They have developed it using their own language whose creation in the 7th century is an important milestone in the region’s social and historical development. Literary and artistic works flourished, especially in the 11th century. According to officials from the cultural department, various kinds of collected works, biographies, historical monographs, books on religious origin and development, poems, folk rhymes, mottos, fables, folk stories, operas and grammars totalling several hundred thousand volumes of 25,000 types have been collected in the Tibet Autonomous Region, Gansu and Sichuan provinces.

To continue this rich cultural legacy, the central government has given special attention to the use and development of the Tibetan language. Both Tibetan and Chinese must be used for official documents of the Party and government organizations at all levels in the autonomous region. Teaching is in Tibetan and Tibetan language courses are compulsory in primary and middle schools. Tibetan is also a required course in universities and colleges. Cadres of the Han and other nationalities who help the construction of Tibet are also required to learn Tibetan.

Most of the books on the shelves in bookstores are in Tibetan. It is reported that books published by the Tibetan People’s Publishing House have been sold not only in Tibet, but also in Qinghai, Sichuan, Yunnan and Gansu, where Tibetans live in fair concentrations, and 70 percent of those books are in Tibetan. In recent years, it has published a dozen or so books of classical literature, medical, historical, scientific and technical works such
as *King Gesar* (five volumes), *Norsan, Sagya's Sayings, The Tibetan Calendar, Astronomy and Star Chart*, and *The Four Medical Books*.

In the past, most of the literary works published in Tibet described local mountains, rivers, religion and lifestyle. After the founding of New China in 1949, the economic and cultural contacts between the Tibetan, Han and other nationalities multiplied. The life and field of vision of Tibetan writers have expanded and many of them have started writing in Chinese.

To encourage Tibetan literature, the regional federation of literary and art circles began, in 1980, to publish the monthly — *TilKtan Literature and Art*, all in Tibetan. Dainzin, a chief editor of the journal, says it has published over 700 literary works written in Tibetan and maintained close ties with over 100 authors.

A pen club gathering for Tibetan writers was held in Lhasa in August this year. One participant, Dobgyal, is a 30-year-old lecturer on ancient Tibetan literature at Tibet University. He says that in the past he wrote in Chinese. After the launch of *Tibetan Literature and Art*, he started writing articles in Tibetan.

Dobgyal has published a dozen or so novels in the monthly and has won prizes for them inside and outside the autonomous region. He says people in the literary and art circles of Tibet are confronted with the problems of how to combine the traditional culture with modern literature to better reflect the ethnic characteristics and psychology of the Tibetan people.

**Tibetan Opera**

I was lucky to be present at the *Sour Milk Drinking* Festival where I had the chance to feast my eyes on some of Lhasa's local opera and drama. Unlike previously when religious activities were the major form of celebration, the presentation of local operas takes centre stage for a week or more — around the end of June/July in the Tibetan calendar. The festival is therefore also called the "Tibetan Opera Festival."

At the beginning of the festival, people from in and around Lhasa stream into the 360,000-square-metre Norbu Lingka, the Dalai Lama's former summer palace. The garden is carpeted with green lawns and planted with 49 varieties of pines and cypresses and 60 kinds of flowers. Waterside pavilions, artificial knolls and summer houses are dotted throughout the grounds. Several hours before the opera is presented, the area around the stage throngs with the dense crowd.

Tibetan opera is a traditional performing art which combines singing and dancing, accompanied by musical instruments or a vocal solo. Different roles in a play are distinguished by different costumes and masks. Tibetan opera can be traced back to the 15th century.

Tradition has it that the Buddhist monk Tangdong Gyalbo was determined to build bridges over the rivers in Tibet. To collect money to fund this enterprise, he formed an opera troupe of seven talented girls from his following. The operas they presented had simple plots based on Buddhist stories, and the opera is nicknamed *Ajehlamo*, which means fairy, for the opera was first staged by girls.

Opera is very popular in Tibet. Tibetan opera troupes often stage their performances in the square of a village, or in their tents, to packed audiences who come from far and near. The troupes have appeared in almost every village. In Maizhokunggar County, there are over 20 amateur troupes of this kind.

During the festival, I saw Tibetan opera on four occasions. One performance was held in the rehearsal area of a local amateur troupe, others at a free market along Pargor Street, in the theatre organized especially for foreign guests, and on the stage in Norbu Lingka.

There are few spoken parts in an
opera. The story line is usually sung loudly and resonantly, with a long and complicated rhyme scheme. The performers make many dancing movements to imitate climbing mountains, rowing boats, flying, diving, riding horses, fighting demons, catching monsters, and worshipping Buddha. Audiences watch spell bound.

Epic ‘King Gesar’

The world’s longest folktale, King Gesar is about a legendary hero in ancient Tibet. King Gesar is a household word in Tibet. Wherever you are Tibetans can tell you something about Gesar’s exploits.

King Gesar is set in a time of war and disunity 400 years after the collapse of the Tubo’s reign. The tale, which involves over a hundred distinct characters, takes on a romantic mood with its interwoven mythic plots. Widely regarded as an encyclopedia of ancient Tibet, it offers a glimpse into the religious rites, marriage system, habits, customs and the general mood of society of that time.

King Gesar is also a treasure-house of the Tibetan language, containing a wealth of proverbs and vivid metaphors. As a whole it is a narrative tale interspersed with a large number of arias in the lu style, which is very popular in Tibet. So this is a monumental work of folk literature which constitutes a high artistic accomplishment, as well as being the world’s longest folktale. The entire work comprises more than 100 volumes with 15 million words.

Since 1716, when the seven-chapter block-printed Mongolian edition of The Biography of King Gesar was published in Beijing, the epic has drawn wide interest from scholars at home and abroad. In India, Japan, as well as in Western countries like France, Britain, the United States, West Germany, and Spain, scholars have been engaged in the study and translation of King Gesar.

In 1979, because many episodes were in danger of being lost forever, the government of the Tibet Autonomous Region set up a special office responsible for the collection, collation and publication of King Gesar. More than 30 storytellers were invited to contribute to the work. One of the current “stars” is Yumei, a storyteller who can recite 70 volumes of the epic from memory; these pieces have been recorded onto 500 tapes. Another 2,000 tapes on the topic were completed by Yumei’s colleagues. In addition, the office has gathered 83 volumes in 55 editions including hand-written, block-printed and mimeographed copies. The first volume of King Gesar went to press in 1978. To date, 18 volumes in Tibetan have been compiled and published, and 740,000 copies of the book sold. Several volumes of the book have also been translated into Chinese for publication.

Tangka: Tibetan Paintings

With the spread of Buddhism in Tibet, tangka—Tibetan religious painting on scrolls—developed as an art form spreading throughout all levels of the society. Tangka paintings are not only found hanging in the main halls of monasteries but also in the homes of many families. Some are treated as ornaments, those with Buddhist images as sacred objects of worship.

Most tangka paintings concentrate on a large Buddhist image as the main theme, and small Buddhist images or the patterns of flowers and clouds are used to
Qamba Chiniei, a state-level specialist, editing a research paper on Tibetan medicine.

surround it. Some works centre on themes of history, medicine, astronomy and architecture. Scholars and artists have made some valuable discoveries through studying these pictures. For example, a recently found tangka series on Tibetan medicine, drawn in the 17th century, illustrates the structure of the human body, the main and collateral channels along which acupuncture points are distributed, and various types of medical apparatus and equipment and medicinal herbs, all of great value to the study of Tibetan medicine.

In May last year, Tibetan tangka works attracted 20,000 visitors when they were displayed in the Cultural Palace of Nationalities in Beijing. Now art enthusiasts abroad can also appreciate these works as more than one hundred pieces selected from 3,000 handed down from the Song, Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties, are being exhibited in France.

In Lhasa when I met 60-year-old artist and vice-president of the Tibetan branch of the China Federation of Fine Artists, Yexei Xeirahb, he was working on a 2-metre-high tangka. Pointing to the cloud patterns in the picture, he explained, tangka art calls for likeness of spirit, rather than appearance. The beautiful cloud patterns in the picture are achieved with layer upon layer of bold lines, combined with the use of colour. The special quality of tangka art is attained through a perfect blending of the techniques of traditional Chinese painting with those of India and Nepal. Pointing to the images of Sakyamuni and other Buddhist disciples on his painting, Yexei added that in the past the colours used in tangka art were very plain, but perspective, rich colour and more subtle chiaroscuro have been adopted to create a three-dimensional effect.

Tibet’s Own Specialists

The State Council this year appointed a group of state-level specialists, seven of them from Tibet. Qamba Chiniei, president of the Tibetan Hospital, for example, is a highly accomplished Tibetan doctor, as well as a specialist in the Tibetan astronomical calendar and star charts. During the “cultural revolution,” Tibetan medicine was denounced as “feudal superstition.” A large number of medical books and data were destroyed, and many skilled doctors were strongly criticized. Despite such criticism, Qamba determined to record Tibetan medical theory. His completed writings include Basic Tibetan Medicine and 10 other textbooks. Soon after the end of the “cultural revolution,” a public health department published these works, which were welcomed by local teachers and students alike. Colleges and schools of Tibetan medicine in Qinghai, Yunnan, Gansu and Sichuan provinces use Qamba’s books as basic teaching materials, and schools and colleges of Mongolian medicine also list them as reference books. The books, republished in 1985, are the main textbooks on basic theory recommended for students of Tibetan medicine at Tibet University.

Tibetan medicine plays an important role in traditional Chinese medicine. In recent years Qamba has published several new works, translations and essays, thus contributing further to the development of Tibetan medicine. He is currently compiling a Bibliography of Tibetan Medical Knowledge and Medicines. “I want to leave more wealth for the minds of future generations,” he says. Last year Qamba was appointed deputy director of the Public Health Department of the Tibet Autonomous Region.

Sixty-one-year-old Professor Dungkar Losang Chiniei, honorary president of the Tibetan Academy of Social Sciences, was also appointed state-level specialist in recognition of his writings on the Tibetan culture which comprise more than 10 books published since the 1970s. During the 1960s, the professor taught ancient Tibetan language at the Central Institute for Nationalities but his teaching career was interrupted during the 10 years of the “cultural revolution.” Since then, he has returned to Tibet and applied himself to the study of Tibetan culture. “The Tibetan culture is rooted in Tibet itself and is createdly by its people,” said Dungkar. He holds that in the past few years, Tibet has made great progress in the study of its history, language, astronomical calendar and star chart and medical science.

Selected as the Zhaxi Qoiling Monastery’s eighth Living Buddha at the age of seven, Dungkar was later sent to Sera Monastery, one of Tibet’s three largest monastic institutions, to study Buddhism. At 21, he was awarded the title of Gehsi (highest scholarship in Lamaism). Dungkar often works 12 hours a day and has recently completed another book titled Recorded History of Lhasa which is due to be published soon.

CORRECTION: In NOTES FROM THE EDITORS, issue 47, page 4, first paragraph, first sentence should read “China has a population of 1.07 billion.”
Philips Expands Business in China

This month the Chinese Ministry of Electronics Industry and the Philips Co. of the Netherlands signed a pair of agreements; one is a long-term co-operation agreement, the other is for training Chinese management personnel within Philips.

In addition, Nanjing’s Huadong Electron Tube Factory signed a contract for establishing a colour kinescope project with Philips. Dalian’s Hualu Electronic Industrial Co. and the Philips Co. have agreed in principle to establish a joint video-recorder production venture. The Suzhou Television Components Factory signed an agreement letter on the establishment of workshops making deflection yokes, fly-back transformers and inductance components. Preliminary agreement has also been reached on the establishment of the Shanghai-Philips Semiconductor Co. The formal agreement is expected to be signed by the end of this year. This project should go into operation by 1990.

Some other co-operation projects such as a television development centre, programme-controlled telephone exchanges, banking computer equipment, optical waveguide fibre and electro-optical sources are now being discussed.

The Chinese electronics industry began co-operation with Philips in 1979. In the first half of this year, high-level visits were exchanged between the two sides and an agreement letter was signed. The two sides also established a co-ordination committee and decided to hold regular meetings.

Philips’ president made a special trip to China this month to sign agreements and discuss other co-operative projects. He said his company is willing to expand its investment and establish more and bigger joint ventures in China and transfer its advanced technology to China in order to develop the international market. Meanwhile, he also expressed his satisfaction at the co-operation that far.

At present, Philips has joint ventures in Beijing, Shenzhen and Huaiyang.

by Liu Jianjun

Aircraft Maintenance Centre Planned

The Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), Lockheed Aircraft Service-International and the Hong Kong-based Hutchinson China Trade Holdings are negotiating the establishment of an aircraft maintenance engineering company in Guangzhou. The formal agreement is expected to be signed early next year.

According to the preliminary agreement reached by the three sides, CAAC will hold 50 percent of the shares with the rest divided equally between the other two companies. The initial investment will be US$30 million; the term of co-operation, 20 years.

The company will set up a maintenance centre at the Baiyun Airport in Guangzhou to service 30 aircraft now using the airport. The maintenance centre site, provided by CAAC, covers an area of 13,700 square metres and construction began a year ago.

At that point, Lockheed will appoint a general manager and provide engineering technology, technicians and managerial personnel including quality inspectors to ensure the centre’s service quality. The company will aim to attract foreign aircraft, especially those using Guangzhou airport, to use the centre.

News in Brief

- A Chinese-made multipurpose electronic medical instrument was exhibited at the International Medical Apparatus Exhibition in Bangkok, on November 26-29. This product won a Chinese patent and a golden award at the Eureka Fair this year.

- The US Federal Aviation Administration has approved McDonnell Douglas licensing the Aviation Industrial Co. of Shanghai (AICS) to produce MD-82 aircraft. This is the first time such a licence has been allowed outside America by the Administration. It shows that AICS, which is producing MD-82 aircraft in cooperation with McDonnell-Douglas and has 6,700 employees, can make advanced aeroplanes.

- The first Foreign Exchange Duty-Free Shop in Shanghai opened on November 11. It is sponsored by the Overseas Chinese Tourism and Remittance Corp. and will provide duty-free goods including televisions, refrigerators, video-recorders and cameras to overseas Chinese, Taiwan compatriots and foreigners living in China.

The shop is the corporation’s fourth, after the ones in Beijing, Guangzhou and Fuzhou.
Reform and Liberation of Chinese Mind

"GUANGMING RIBAO"
(Guangming Daily)

China has carried out economic structural reform for nine years. During this period, its industrial and agricultural production rose steadily and the lives of people in both rural and urban areas improved progressively. People are buying more and more vegetables and meat and vying with each other to purchase colour television sets, refrigerators and washing machines. All these changes are visible.

At the same time great changes have taken place in people's thinking and mental attitudes. The wave of reform has pounded at backward, ignorant and decadent ideas which have been shaped over thousands of years. Various traditional ideas, such as satisfaction with the existing state of affairs, fear of change and sticking to conventions, have begun to recede. A feeling for business, an appreciation of value and efficiency, and respect for knowledge and talent have been gradually instilled in people's minds. The reforms have spurred people to redouble their efforts and work with renewed vigour. We can say that the reforms have led to a new stage in the liberation of the Chinese mind.

But some outdated conventional ideas are still common. They fill some people with misgivings about liberating the national spirit and hinder the development of reform. Liberating the Chinese mind is a comprehensive process. It depends on material as well as mental resources. Therefore, the further eradication of outdated ideas and the liberation of the national spirit rely on the deepening of the current reforms in all fields and the acceleration of the pace of structural reform and opening up.

To further accelerate the economic structural reform, we must carry out the policies of separating the functions of management from those of the ownership and adopting manifold management responsibility systems such as contracting and leasing. Thus, a large number of intelligent, capable and innovative entrepreneurs will emerge in the course of competition. At the same time, the initiative of workers and other employees will come into full play because the fate of enterprises is closely linked to their interests. The reforms give enterprises greater decision-making power, so they can show greater initiative.

Economic reforms will also lead to the improvement of the cadre selection process. Professional personnel should be chosen through public competition. The outworn concept of using seniority as the sole criterion in the selection and promotion of cadres should be done away with; instead, the initiative of the masses should be stimulated by stressing merit, achievement and the courage to compete. This will help create a rational flow of trained personnel and give people a chance to choose their jobs. If we make the best use of intellectual resources and allow people to show their strong points, they will put their hearts into their work and all of society will benefit.

To expedite reform will further perfect the socialist democratic system and strengthen the socialist legal system. The essence of socialist democracy is that the masses become the masters—they enjoy full civil rights and the right to manage the state, enterprises and institutions. Perfecting the people's congresses at all levels, voting from a large number of candidates and establishing a system of consultation and dialogue will help guarantee democratic rights and lead to a better understanding of the opinions and demands of the masses. Simultaneously, strengthening the socialist legal system will help establish good relations among people on the basis of equality, and restrain or punish those who take unlawful advantage of their positions or abuse their power. The legal system can make society more civilized and rational and promote the liberation of the national spirit.

In short, many outworn concepts that have held back people's thinking for a long time will come under heavy attack as the reform deepens. They will soon be replaced by new concepts, including an enthusiasm for change and achieving practical results.

(September 20, 1987)

Beijing's Dwelling Compounds

"XUANCHUAN SHOUCE"
(Propaganda Handbook)

When speaking of Beijing, people often think of dwelling compounds, or quadrangles, one important aspect of the city's architectural heritage. Beijing's dwelling compounds are generally rectangular, with the four sides squarely facing the cardinal points. Almost every dwelling compound is surrounded by high walls, with an open courtyard in the centre and buildings on four sides, usually one storey high.

Stepping over the high wooden base of the front gate of a large compound, the visitor will find a brick screen located few feet inside. In front of the screen is the outer courtyard, which is flanked by structures to the east and west. In former days, these were the
The buildings facing east and west on each side of the court were constructed to accommodate married children and their families. Some dwelling compounds consist of several courtyards. With no steel or concrete, the entire dwelling was built from bricks and wood. The compounds are quiet, beautiful and compact. Beijing residents like to live in them and even foreigners find them attractive.

But today, the peaceful quadrangles are hard to be found in Beijing. There are several reasons for this.

—Since the liberation of China in 1949, a large-scale municipal construction programme has been carried out in the city, causing the demolition of some dwelling compounds.

—During the initial post-liberation period, government departments have worked out a plan to limit high buildings in Beijing proper to protect dwelling compounds.

Beijing still has about 400,000 residential quadrangles, mainly distributed over the East, West, Xuanwu and Chongwen districts. Those in the East and West districts are in the best shape. The departments concerned with the preservation of cultural relics in Beijing have earmarked a number of good-quality dwelling compounds for protection. In addition, the urban construction departments have worked out a plan to limit high buildings in Beijing proper to protect dwelling compounds.

(Secondary No. 18, 1987)

## Mayor’s Night Crusade

"ZHONGGUO HUANJING BAO"
(Chinese Environment)

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fter seeing out his last visitors at 9:30 pm on August 24, Mayor Wang Keying of Changsha, Hunan Province, turned to another problem. About 100 residents in Baonan Street had written a joint letter reporting noise pollution from the ballroom of the Cultural Palace for Building Workers.

At 9:45, Wang went to Baonan Street together with Gong Xunchao, deputy head of the Changsha Environmental Protection Bureau. On entering No. 3 residential building adjacent to the cultural palace, they were struck by the deafening noise of wind instruments and shouting from the ballroom. For the building’s residents it would be like living in a public place. They climbed the building from the first to the fourth floor and visited families in turn.

News of the mayor’s visit spread quickly and residents came and vied for a chance to voice complaints. Li Dehua, an elderly man living on the third floor, said, “I have serious heart troubles. My doctor continually urges me to have a good rest. But the noise from the cultural palace never stops.”

Another resident said, “Just now, my child pleaded with me to move to a peaceful place, but I have no way of doing that.” A middle-aged man named Lu who works as a driver said that he lives in constant fear of accidents because he never gets enough rest at night. Parents also claimed that noise from the cultural palace was interfering with their children’s study.

Gong Xunchao measured the noise level in the building’s hallway at 80 decibels.

Wang then visited the cultural palace together with other leaders. They asked for detailed information about the cultural activities conducted in the ballroom and presented the complaints of local residents to the managers. Wang stressed that the management of the cultural palace should not merely consider economic efficiency but also pay attention to social and environmental factors and the interests of the people. He suggested that the establishment close down its dance hall.

Wang had urged the department concerned to enforce the new measures but the following day he was still in suspense. Finally the dances were cancelled and several hundred residents in Baonan Street were relieved of the noise in their neighbourhood.

(September 15, 1987)
1988: The Year of the Dragon

Next year is the year of the dragon. According to Chinese tradition, the year of the dragon means good fortune and prosperity. In China and other countries such as Singapore, which follow traditional Chinese custom, it is thought to be a good year to get married. And children born in the dragon year are considered likely to be clever and strong.

The Chinese government has long advocated family planning. Although many people will marry in 1988, the birthrate will still be controlled. But this will not prevent people from celebrating the year of the dragon.

Many kinds of celebrations will be held across the country. To welcome foreigners to the celebrations, and as part of the Beijing Tourist Bureau’s designation of 1988 as the Beijing Year of International Travel, Beijing will hold the following activities:

- Opening Tiananmen Rostrum to Foreign Tourists. The Tiananmen Rostrum, built in 1417, is located in the centre of Beijing. Based on massive stone painted red and topped by an imposing wooden edifice with a double-eaved yellow-tile roof, Tiananmen serves as the outer entrance to the Palace Museum. It has five archways. In feudal society, the central one was used exclusively by the emperor, while the others were reserved for royalty and the nobility. Tiananmen Rostrum is represented on China’s national emblem. It was there that the late Chairman Mao Zedong proclaimed the founding of the People’s Republic of China on October 1, 1949. Since then it has been the place where Chinese leaders review parades and the centre of political activities. The Chinese people regard standing on Tiananmen Rostrum as a great honour. In the past only selected model workers and honoured foreign guests were accorded the privilege.

  From the rostrum, one gets a bird’s-eye view of the former Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square—one of the largest squares in the world. The Great Hall of the People, where the recent 13th National Congress of the Communist Party of China was held, is on the west side of the square. The Museum of Chinese History and the Museum of the Chinese Revolution, which house many valuable items and photographs which tell of China’s 5,000 years of history, are on the east side.

- Ice Sculpture Exhibition. In January and February an ice sculpture exhibition will be held in Longqingxia, Yanqing County, on the outskirts of Beijing. Sculptures of lanterns, dragons and dragon’s palaces will be fashioned out of ice by amateur and professional ice sculptors.

- Lantern Festival. On the 15th day of the first lunar month (in February or March), the grandest celebration will be held in the Beijing Cultural Palace of the Working People. Throughout China it is the tradition of the season to hang decorative paper lanterns in celebration. Visitors will be able to carry lanterns as they enjoy typical local foods and a theatrical performance.

- Dragon Kite Flying Contest and Dragon-Boat Race. In April and May, the International Dragon Kite Flying Contest and a
dragon kite performance will be held in Beijing and Weifang, Shandong Province. In Beijing’s Longtan Park, a dragon-boat race will be held. Tourists will be able to row small dragon boats on the lake, and enjoy the pavilions, sculptures, the waterfall and other attractions and recreational activities.

- **Dragon Dance Contest.** In September three dragon dance competitions will be held in Beijing Worker’s Stadium. On that occasion, many local dragon dancers will show off their skill.

- **Exhibition of Cultural Relics With the Dragon Motif.** The exhibition will show the evolution of the dragon pattern and its cultural history. Visitors will see lamps, beds, chairs and cups with dragon patterns.

- **Chinese Traditional Theatrical Performances.** National theatre troupes will perform every month. At the end of each performance, spectators who were born in the year of the dragon (for example, 1976, 1964, 1952, 1940, 1928) will get a souvenier.

- **Performance of the Imperial Concubine Visiting Her Parents.** From May to October, the Beijing Grand View Garden will hold a performance of The Imperial Concubine Visiting Her Parents every week. The garden was carefully designed and meticulously built in the style of the housing of high-ranking officials in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). Accompanied by music, the performers will wear ancient costumes and conjure up the grand spectacles of yesteryear.

- **Golden Dragon Photo Contest.** Photographs taken in 1988 which reflect Beijing’s scenic beauty, its historical and archaeological treasures or the experience of its tourists are eligible for the contest. The prizes include a golden dragon, a silver dragon and a bronze dragon.

- **Lottery.** Foreign tourists who make purchases of 100 yuan or more at designated tourist shops will receive a lottery ticket. The draw will be held at the beginning of 1989. The winner will receive a free seven-day trip for two to Beijing.

Some famous restaurants and hotels in Beijing will make traditional dishes and cakes, and host shows on the dragon theme. The Beijing Hotel will offer a Dragon Banquet. Dragon dances will be performed in the Great Wall Hotel. The Pure Brightness Festival (in early April) and the Dragon Boat Festival (in June) will be celebrated at the Yanxiang Hotel, near Beijing’s Capital Airport. The hotel will host fairs and Dragon Lantern song and dance performances in its typical Chinese garden. Many local food and folk art with dragon designs from all over China will be available.

The opening ceremony of the Beijing Year of International Travel will take place at the Beijing Exhibition Centre on the evening of December 31; about 1,500 foreign tourists will be invited there to enjoy dishes from 20 famous hotels in Beijing. Chen Xitong, the mayor of Beijing, will present a certificate and souvenir to the first foreign visitor in the dragon year.

China’s other main tourist cities, including Xian, Nanjing, Guilin, Guangzhou, Shanghai and Wuxi, will hold special local events for tourists. For example, Nanjing will hold a fair in the Confucius Temple; Guilin will have performances by minority nationalities; Guangzhou will hold a local food festival and folk art festival; Hangzhou will organize sightseeing dragon boat flotillas at night on the West Lake.

In Chinese tradition, 12 animals — rat, buffalo, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, chicken, dog and pig — are used to represent a cycle of 12 years. The dragon is the only animal which is imaginary. It has antlers, a tiger’s eyes, a lion’s nose, an ox’s ears, a hawk’s claws, a horse’s mane, the scales of a fish and the body of a snake. So it is full of power and grandeur. For thousands of years, the Chinese people regarded the dragon as a deity with absolute power. In history, the emperors always regarded themselves as Zhen Long Tian Zi (sons of the dragon). China was regarded as the land of the dragon and the Chinese as the dragon’s descendants. The image of the dragon can be found in ancient buildings, sculptures, clothes, paintings, literature and mythology. It also appeared on the first Chinese national flag, stamp, silver coin and bank note.

*by Han Guojian*

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**Just Off the Press**

The 13th Party Congress and China’s Reforms seeks to help readers understand the recent congress, the decisions it made and the current status of China’s reforms. Written in question-and-answer format, the authoritative booklet deals with theoretical issues as well as practical questions about the political and economic reforms, and strategies for economic development and Party building. Included in the appendix are short biographies of the top leaders of the Communist Party of China. Also included are 24 pages of photos.

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Tragicomic Drama on Rural Life

The tragicomedy Gouerye’s Nirvana staged by the Beijing People’s Art Theatre was selected for inclusion in the first China Art Festival in September after hundreds of successful performances. Every evening, people stood waiting in front of the theatre to buy returned tickets. Inside the theatre, audiences laughed heartily and warmly applauded the performance.

The play is seen by many as a rare piece of drama and it has excited the attention of critics. According to those who believe in creative art, “experience has shown that only through creativity can drama survive.” But people who have a high regard for the techniques of traditional realism claim that this play demonstrates the great vitality of realism.

The story centres on the life of the poor farmer Chen Hexiang. During his childhood, Chen’s father ate a live puppy as his part in a wager of two mu of land (one hectare = 15 mu). But instead of gaining some land, he died and his strange end earned his son the nickname “Gouerye” (father’s puppy). When he reached adulthood, Gouerye was determined to change his family status. He believed that the earth could produce gold, and that as long as he had his own land, he could live in comfort like the village landlord Qi Yongnian in his house with “a high arch over the gateway, eating pickles mixed with sesame oil.” In his twentieth year the landlord Qi Yongnian fled from the thunder of the guns of the liberation war. In the midst of the gunfire, Gouerye risked his life to gather Qi’s sesame. With the founding of the People’s Republic of China and the subsequent land reforms, Gouerye was given a piece of land and a section part of landlord Qi’s house with the high archway. He married a young widow named Feng Jinhua through a matchmaker. As the young lady was very capable, the husband and wife lived a happy and comfortable life.

After some years, when the agricultural co-operative movement swept the countryside, all land was pooled into the co-operatives. Gouerye, who had worked hard on his own land for many years, was so angered by the new rulings that he fell into a state of madness. He would often hit or swear at his wife, which drove her to divorce. Feng Jinhua was later remarried to Li Wanjiang, a brigade leader in the village. In an attempt to control Gouerye’s madness, Li Wanjiang gave him a block of waste land far from the village.

For more than 20 years Gouerye lived there and placed his hope in the land, until rural economic reform brought about the system of contracting land to individual households. Excited by this, Gouerye recovered from his...
illness, only to find that his ex-wife had already remarried. But Gouerye was old and it was too late for him to profit from his land, so he put his hopes in his son Chen Dahao. Unexpectedly, the young Chen was most interested in sideline production, and what is more, he wanted to pull down the high arched gateway to build a factory for processing dolomite. This enraged Gouerye, and in a fit of madness, he set fire to the gate and then, carrying his bedding roll and a hoe over his shoulder, and a broken water jar in his hand, he set off to seek ideals which he would never realize....

The story obviously describes the harsh realities of country life. Yet no traditional dramatic form of presentation is employed. The curtain opens on the scene in which the old Gouerye sets fire to his gate. As the fire burns, scenes of reminiscences unfold the events of the past 40 years: the young Gouerye harvesting Qi’s sesame; Gouerye with his prospective wife; Gouerye owning his own land; the land becoming the collective’s; Feng Jinhua stealing crops in the moonlight; Gouerye kneeling at his father’s grave, pouring out his grievances over his lost land; tilling the wasted land far away from the village. Finally, the scene returns to the beginning of the story. The scenes of Gouerye’s recollections are presented in the stream of consciousness. The phantom of the landlord Qi Yongnian often appears in Gouerye’s mind, and in a dreamy state he talks directly to it.

The play also makes use of Bertolt Brecht’s technique of expressionism. When Gouerye acts foolishly or does something ridiculous his son directly criticizes him to the audience from one corner of the stage. Gouerye’s long soliloquy features the colour of China’s traditional opera. The varied techniques used in the play break away completely from traditional stage forms. The strong local flavour and use of language are conducive to descriptions of characters. The unique characters and artistic appeal of the opera offer audiences a chance to see how the thousands of years of feudalism and economic backwardness made the farmers so ridiculous and lamentable.

Classifying the play is a difficult task. Some critics uncompromisingly see it as a successful blend of realism and expressionism. The writer makes no judgment on the issue, “The characters and events are drawn from experiences in my life.” he says simply. “To express my feelings, I just write freely.”

The playwright Liu Jinyun, 47, was born to a farming family in the north China countryside. During his childhood he experienced the poverty and backwardness of country life, and became aware of the merits and shortcomings of the peasants. In 1952 he was enrolled in a Beijing middle school, following which he studied Chinese literature at Beijing University. Liu’s city life and studies did not restrict his contacts with the country. He returned to his hometown every summer or winter vacation. After his graduation in 1963, he was assigned to teach in a middle school in the outskirts of Beijing. Liu was later elected deputy Party secretary of a commune and through his work in the countryside, he gained a further understanding of farmers.

In 1980, Liu collaborated with another writer on a novel, The Fool of Wang Laoda which described a poor and honest farmer who, to prevent his family from suffering the severe winter cold, gathered firewood in the mountains. But he was accused of seeking property and adopting capitalist ideals and he died under the oppression of the ultra-left line. The novel was generally acknowledged as an excellent piece of writing.

Liu was transferred to the Beijing People’s Art Theatre as a professional playwright in 1982. Not long after that, he once again co-operated with another writer to produce the lyric play Tales of the Girls, depicting the changing fate of country folk.

The Beijing People’s Art Theatre is one with a strong tradition of realism and creativity. Of the plays staged in this theatre, Liu Jinyun appreciated Absolute Sign which featured life in modern society, Death of a Salesman written by the American playwright Arthur Miller and A Child Prodigy Given by God on W.A. Mozart.

Liu Jinyun’s Gouerye’s Nirvana won him a strong reputation which he lived up to in his following play, Stone Tablet Carrier, depicting the life of intellectuals in the countryside. Liu has also drawn the outline of another play dealing with the fate of women in the countryside.

From Liu’s example, one can see that works of a writer who has years of experience of life in the countryside and who writes freely, are bound to represent his unique talent.

by Wang Hongtao

Coaching Footballers To ‘Go for Goal’

In order to improve China’s football technique for world-level competition, China invited Jack Gallagher, one of the Federation of International Football Association’s (FIFA) senior coaches.

Jack Gallagher, FIFA’s senior coach.
football coaches, to open its “Go for Goal” training class in October this year in Beijing.

Wa Guitian, chairman of the Beijing Football Association, said that in order to train Chinese footballers from youth and as part of the Asian Football Association’s designation of 1988 as ‘Asia Youth Football Year,’ this training class has been started.

The training’s full name is “Coke—Go for Goal” as it was established under an agreement between the Federation of International Football Association and the Coca-Cola Company. According to the agreement made in 1977, a number of famous footballers will coach there to give its young hopefuls the best chance.

The training plan has been worked out according to a teaching theory of the Federal Germany’s famous soccer trainer Karl Heinz Heddegott, who is recognized world over as an expert in training young footballers. He places scoring goals at the centre of his teaching. Hence the title of the training course.

Jack Gallagher said that nobody can deny that China’s sports have great potential, including football. Of course China cannot hope to have a strong football team over-night. So the footballers must be trained from childhood.

Gallagher considered that all of the exercises of the training class are aimed at a goal—you get points if you shoot a good try.

Jin Zhengmin, a former player in China’s national football team said: “The main reason for the poorness of our team is that we cannot score a goal in time.”

In the preliminary football contest for the 1988 Olympic Games last October, the Chinese football team met the Japanese. Although the Chinese got 22 scoring chances, they did not score a single goal. The Japanese team shot three times, and scored one goal. In 1980, in the Olympic preliminaries, the Chinese met Singapore. The Chinese had 80 percent of the scoring chances, but again did not score once. They lost 0:1.

Jin hoped that the training plan of “Coke—Go for Goal” will help change the instinct weak situation of the Chinese team.

The “Coke—Go for Goal” football training pitches has become an important component part of Asia’s football development and already proven its worth in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Japan, the Philippines and Thailand in the last few years.

Great Cellist Draws Audiences

The world-famous cellist Yo-Yo Ma steps onto the stage and immediately begins to play an adaptation of a folk song from north China Dui Hua. Well-known Chinese composer Luo Zhongrong composed the piece for cello with cello ensemble to celebrate Ma’s visit to China. More than 80 cellists from across the country joined the ensemble to accompany the Chinese-American cellist.

On October 12th, the Beijing Concert Hall was filled to capacity. Yo-Yo Ma’s concert was a grand occasion for China’s musical circles and music lovers.

For two evenings, this young musical genius from America demonstrated through perfect technique his understanding of the world, life and classical works. The energy and sound quality of the cello excited audience appreciation.

“We treasure this opportunity because Yo-Yo Ma is of Chinese origin and has absorbed both Western and Chinese culture. We feel closer to him,” said associate professor Zong Bo of the Central Conservatory of Music, a cellist and council member of the National Cellists’ Society, an organization under the Chinese Musician’s Association.

Yo-Yo Ma’s concerts in Beijing include three of Bach’s six unaccompanied cello suites, first staged by Pablo Casals, and recognized by generations of players since as a masterpiece. Ma was highly praised at an early age by the great cello master Casals. He does not seek to produce beautifully sounding musical phrases, but infuses thoughts and romantic colour into the piece as a whole. He didn’t merely imitate what Casals did. His Beijing performances won public acclaim in China.

In co-operation with the China Broadcasting Symphonic Orchestra, Ma also performed both classical and contemporary works, including concertos by Haydn, Dvorak and Shostakovich. The concert was broadcast nationwide on prime time by the Central People’s Broadcasting Station, with spot coverage by the station correspondent. It was estimated that millions of people listened to the performance.

Ma’s visit to China and his concert were the main topics of conversation in the capital’s musical circle for over a month before Ma’s arrival in China. Audiences, who paid 12 yuan for tickets in Beijing—the highest price yet for a stage performance—were wild with joy. Even during Ma’s rehearsals, the concert hall was often packed with hundreds of musicians and music lovers. Ma made a deep impression on China’s audiences. His musical experience is bound to help improve the performances of his Chinese counterparts.
Sketches by Sun Jiaying

Sun Jiaying, born in 1956 in Shaoxing, Zhejiang Province, is now a graduate student at the Central Academy of Arts and Crafts. Sun specializes in vivid, easy pen paintings. Here are some of her sketches from the stage.
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