

A CHINESE WEEKLY OF NEWS AND VIEWS

# Beijing Review

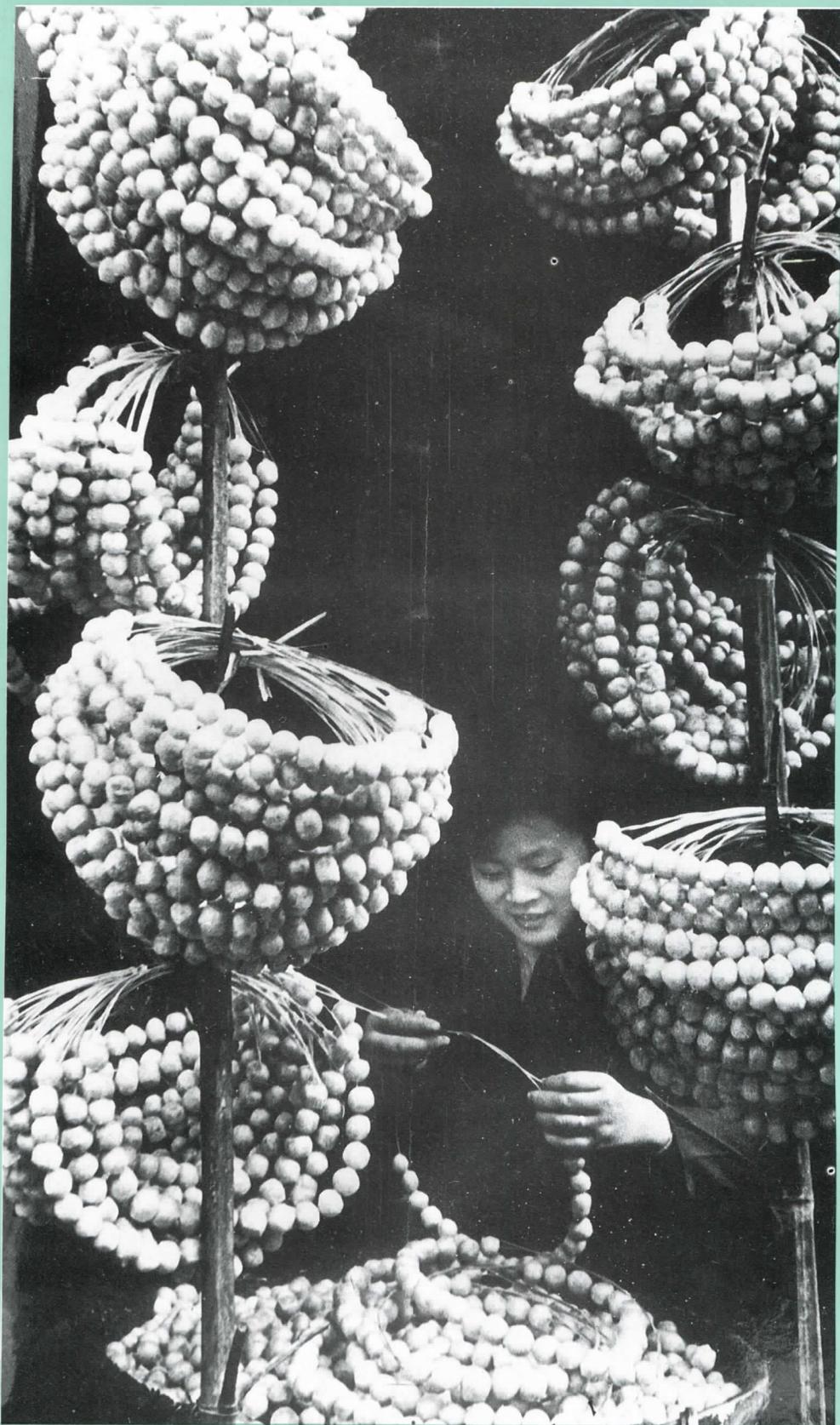
北京周报

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## DEMOCRATS ACTIVE IN GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

4th Session of  
7th NPC Opens





A girl peddles her deep-fried bean curd.

*Photo by Fu Yiqiang*

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

## NPC Meets for 90s Development

□ China's National People's Congress, the highest organ of state power, is having its annual session March 25-April 9 to hammer at an ambitious programme for the country's economic development in the last decade of this century (p. 5).

## Yuan Mu Interviewed on China's Development Strategy

□ Entrusted by President Yang Shangkun, Yuan Mu, spokesman for the State Council and director of the State Council Policy Research Office, recently had a talk with US journalist Harrison E. Salisbury. A conversation between the two (p. 12).

## An Early Solution to Mideast Issue Imperative

□ Now that the Gulf war has ended, a solution to the Middle East question is urgently needed. China favours a fair and reasonable solution through political channels with the participation of all parties concerned and supports the convening of an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations (p. 4).

## Democratic Parties Active in Political Forum

□ China's multi-party co-operation under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party is realized through the holding of leading posts in the state and the government by both democratic party and non-party members. This article introduces several members of democratic parties on their assumption of important posts in the government and judicial organs (p. 23).

## Taiwan's 'Reunification Programme' Considered 'Impractical'

□ The "national reunification programme" adopted recently by the Taiwan authorities is considered "impractical" because its purpose is to seek diplomatic "dual recognition." *Renmin Ribao* in a commentary urged the Taiwan authorities to cast away illusions and take practical steps towards reunification of the motherland (p. 7).

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**COVER:** Pan Beilei (second from right), an alternate member of the Central Committee of the Jiu San Society and a vice-minister of Light Industry, visits the Beijing Huayi Cloisonne Factory to see how production progresses there.

Photo by Xu Xiangjun

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# Possible Solution to Middle East Question

by Our Guest Commentator Shi Jian

**B**ecause of its strategic position and rich natural resources, the Middle East is a region coveted by many powers, leading to numerous crises. The question of longest standing and one greatly influencing world peace is the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In November 1947, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution for the partition of Palestine into two states: one Jewish and one Arab. On May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was established. The next day, the first Middle East war broke out between Arab countries and Israel, and thus began a long succession of Arab-Israeli conflicts. Again in 1956, 1967 and 1973 wars erupted. In the four Middle East wars, Israel occupied a large stretch of Arab land, involving Palestinian territories. Millions of Palestinians became refugees. The current thrust of Middle East and Palestinian questions came into being then.

Many proposals towards a resolution have been advanced by the international community and other concerned parties. The United Nations also adopted a series of related resolutions. All these efforts have gradually promoted the Arab-Israeli conflicts to develop towards political settlement but not military confrontation. In 1988 and 1989 the Middle East issue saw a prospect for a peaceful settlement. However, since the beginning of the 1990s, the Middle East region has been greatly influenced by changes in the international structure and the situation has again become tense. A large number of Jews immigrated to Israel, the United States stopped talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Israeli government hardened its attitude towards the Palestinian question. Efforts of the PLO and Arab nations to seek a political settlement were threatened. The outbreak of the Gulf crisis negatively influenced the Middle East peace process, throwing Arab-Israeli conflicts out of the focus. But with the end of the Gulf war, world attention was again focused on the Middle East and Palestinian questions.

China has persisted over the years in making an unremitting effort to promote the solution of the Middle East and Palestinian questions. China has always considered the core of the Middle East issue to be the Palestinian question with its crux being Israel's invasion and expansion against Palestine and other Arab countries. Also crucial to the question is the Palestinian and Arab people's

struggle against Israel for recovering lost territories and regaining their national rights.

The historical lesson of the decades-long turbulence in the Middle East region demonstrates that the absence of a solution to the Middle East question, with the Palestinian question at its heart, is the root cause of the persistent turmoil.

The Chinese people have always sympathized with and supported the Palestinian and other Arab peoples in their just cause. China supports the Palestinian people in their just struggle to regain national rights and favours a fair and reasonable solution to the Middle East question through political channels.

The end of the Gulf war makes the need for a settlement imperative. The settlement of the Middle East question should be achieved at an earliest possible date. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China bears responsibility for maintaining peace in the Middle East and the world. It will continue its efforts to promote the Middle East peace process along with other members of the international community.

The Chinese government suggests:

—The Middle East question should be resolved through political channels and all parties concerned should refrain from resort to force;

—China supports the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East under the UN auspices with the participation of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and all parties concerned;

—China supports the efforts of the parties concerned with the Middle East question to conduct dialogues of various forms as deemed appropriate, including direct dialogue between the PLO and Israel;

—Israel must stop its suppression of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, and correspondingly, the security of Israel should also be guaranteed; and

—The State of Palestine and Israel should recognize each other and the Arab and Jewish nations should coexist in peace.

China also considers that for many years the PLO has been accepted by all the Palestinian people and broadly recognized in the Arab world and the international community as a whole as the representative of the Palestinian people. In solving the Palestinian question, the PLO should be included. ■



Premier Li Peng.

## Setting the Tune for New Economic Boom

The month is March. The topic of the nation is March, when nearly 3,000 deputies to China's supreme legislature are gathering in Beijing to scrutinize an economic strategy for the "New Long March" — the modernization drive.

The 4th Session of the 7th National People's Congress (NPC) opened on March 25 with its focus on the deliberation of the 10-year programme (1991-2000) and the Eighth Five-Year Plan (1991-95) for national economic and social development. The draft blueprints were hammered out and passed by the Party Central Committee last December.

China began its modernization drive in the late 1970s, and, towards the end of the 1980s, met its first goal by doubling the 1980 GNP.



Deputies to the National People's Congress are listening to Li Peng's report.

Now comes the time for achieving the nation's second goal: to quadruple the 1980 GNP by the end of the century, secure a fairly comfortable standard of living for the people, and pave the way for further economic gains in the next century.

In his report to the session, Premier Li Peng said, "Our achievements in the 1980s were great." He attributed the accomplishments to the socialist system and the policy of reform and opening to the outside world.

In 1990, Li said, the annual disposable income for urban residents averaged 1,387 yuan per capita while the per-capita net income for peasants was 630 yuan, 68.1 percent and 123.9 percent respectively over 1980, after allowing for price rises.

The 1980s saw a "greater improvement in the people's living standards than in any other previous decade," Li said.

Few people, however, remember the major economic indicators pertaining to the country's growth and the increase of the people's incomes. And it is not hard to find passersby in the streets who claim they do not know much about statistics, but almost everyone is aware of the fact that the Chinese people now



The National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference opens its plenary on March 23.

have a better life than ever before.

"Only a dozen years ago, you wouldn't see such plentiful markets as we see now, nor would you expect your food basket to be full of vegetables, fruits, eggs, meat, fish, etc. Now, you can almost get whatever food you want," said a Beijing housewife. "I understand neither politics nor economics. All I know is we are better-off than before. That's enough. What else do you want?"

Not all the people are satisfied with the country's situation or their own lot, neither are people

satisfied all the time. Complaints and criticism are commonplace. The growing pains could be felt in almost every field.

There is, as Li mentioned in his report, a serious stockpiling of products and manufactured goods, and circulation in the economy is not smooth. "The state is experiencing financial difficulties with a conspicuous imbalance between revenue and expenditure...and there are still some destabilizing factors in spite of the fact that we have achieved political stability and unity," he added.

Li said his government will take these problems seriously and try its best to solve them.

The 16-day NPC meeting will appoint some functionaries to the cabinet, including vice-premiers and state councillors, according to an NPC deputy.

The National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), known as the "brain trust" of the Party and the government, began its plenary on March 23 and it will conclude on April 4.

Generally, the annual meetings of the NPC and CPPCC are held almost simultaneously during March and April.

by Staff Reporter Li Haibo

Members of CPPCC are discussing.

XUE CHAO



## Taiwan's 'Programme' 'Impractical'

The Taiwan authorities are urged to cast away illusions and actively promote relations on both sides of the Taiwan Straits. A practical attitude would help promote reunification of the motherland.

Commenting on the "national reunification programme" adopted recently by the Taiwan authorities, a commentary of *Renmin Ribao* (*People's Daily*) said, the programme gave some significant indications concerning the direct exchanges of mail, trade and air and shipping services, contacts, mutual high-level visits and consultations for the reunification. Such indications conform to the historical tide.

However, the commentary said, the programme, as the Taiwan authorities' "future leading principle governing policies towards the mainland," is also open to question.

The programme urges each side of the straits "not to negate the other side as a political entity on a reciprocal basis" and to "respect, not exclude, the other in the international community." This actually is Taiwan's attempt to pass itself as an independent political entity in the international community and seek the so-called diplomatic "dual recognition." Such a demand is completely impractical, said the *Renmin Ribao* commentary.

In recent years, the Taiwan authorities have tried various means to set up official repre-

sentative offices and sign agreements of an official nature with countries which have established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, in pursuit of so-called "pragmatic diplomacy" and "dual recognition."

Now the Taiwan authorities have included in the programme some bargaining chips to earn the mainland's recognition as a so-called independent and equal "political entity," so that the two sides could "respect, not exclude, each other in the international community." This runs counter to the interests of the people on both sides of the straits as well as the Chinese nation, the commentary indicated.

According to international law, it is impossible for one country to have two equal governments. The so-called "dual recognition" can only lead to "two Chinas," or "one China, one Taiwan," it can only lead to separation rather than to reunification.

After decades of hostility and estrangement, each side of the straits has established a different social system. Not evading the reality, the mainland has set forth the principle of "one country, two systems" for the reunification, which means the two sides may practise different social systems within the prerequisite of one country. This is the most realistic way to realize peaceful reunification of the motherland.

However, the Taiwan authorities wanted the mainland to "follow the principle of political democracy, economic freedom and social

equity as well as the conversion of the armed forces into a state army and discuss (together with the Taiwan authorities) the great cause of reunification."

In addition, some persons among the Taiwan authorities stated that the objective of their mainland policy is to "transform the mainland peacefully" and its basic principle is to "conduct, step by step, cultural and economic exchanges and contact so as to transform the regime of the Chinese Communist Party. Contact on a political level will come last, thus accomplishing the reunification of China by way of democracy, freedom and common prosperity."

This is not a practical or wise choice, but an unrealistic illusion, the commentary said.

It also said that the reunification of the motherland is a great cause with bearing on interests of the Chinese on both sides of the straits and all over the world.

The commentary urged the Taiwan authorities to take practical steps toward real accomplishments in the cause of the national reunification.

## State Farms Hold Trade Fair

More than 10,000 different kinds of commodities were on sale at the 9th National Farm Product Trade Fair in Guangzhou March 28-April 1.

Sponsored by a corporation of state farms established on reclaimed land, the fair presented grains, oil, liquors, tea, milk products, fruits, clothes, household articles, electric appliances, chemical and medicinal products and building materials. Nearly 2,000 of the products on display won provincial, state or world prizes. The total volume of business at the fair reached more than one billion yuan.

Besides domestic business organizations, the fair was also attended by guests from Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan and foreign countries.

The corporation is composed of 2,173 state-run farms, whose 5.16 million workers are engaged in a large assortment of work in agriculture, industry and commerce. Service industry, transportation and construction acquired tangible progress on these farms as well. Last year they exported 2.9 billion yuan worth of goods.

by Staff Reporter Han Baocheng

### News in Brief

#### Kuwaiti Minister In Beijing

Chinese President Yang Shangkun, Premier Li Peng and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen met separately on March 20 visiting Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs A. R. Al-Awadhi.

The Chinese leaders expressed China's readiness to do its best to help Kuwait re-

construct and continue its support for Kuwait's demands for restoration of its legitimate rights at the UN Security Council. They hoped the Sino-Kuwaiti friendly relations and co-operation would further develop.

The Kuwaiti minister appreciated the Chinese government's sympathy and support for the Kuwaiti people during their crises, vowing that his compatriots will not fail to live up to the expectations of the world.

Al-Awadhi was the first Kuwaiti high-ranking official to visit China since the nation regained its independence and sovereignty.

#### Lifting of Sanctions Against Iraq Urged

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said at a news briefing on March 21 that the international community should consider an earliest possible lifting of economic sanctions against Iraq.

The spokesman reasoned that a ceasefire of the Gulf war is achieved and that the innocent Iraqi people are having serious difficulties in daily life.

He made the remarks in response to questions on China's view on the French proposal to lift the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq.

#### Sino-Japanese Ties Back on Course

At a meeting with Eiichi Nakao, Japanese minister of international trade and industry, Premier Li Peng said that China was pleased with the progress made for the full restoration of Sino-Japanese

ties.

Li expressed China's willingness to keep a trade balance between the two countries.

China welcomes the active attitude of the Japan National Oil Corporation towards opening up oil fields in the Tarim Basin in Northwest China, the premier said.

#### China, France Seek Consultation

Chinese and French senior diplomats have agreed that the two countries gradually move towards normal relations and further develop them.

The two sides expressed readiness to increase their consultation on such international issues as the Middle East and Cambodian problems.

Chinese Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Tian Zengpei and visiting French State Secretary to the Foreign Ministry Thierry de Beauce made the remarks at a Beijing meeting March 21.

#### Political Reform Urged on S. Africa

On the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Li Peng called on South African President F. M. de Klerk to speed up his efforts to abolish the basic apartheid legislations in the country.

Although positive changes have taken place in South Africa since last year, President de Klerk's promise to remove obstacles from constitutional negotiations had not been fully honoured, the Chinese premier noted. ■

# Soviet Referendum Supports Union

by Dan Lin

Three quarters of those voting in the Soviet Union's first national referendum March 17 favoured a renewed Soviet federation.

According to Vladimir Orlov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet's referendum committee, 82 percent of eligible voters cast ballots and 76 percent of the voters voted "yes."

Six republics—Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia—refused to participate, prompting local officials to set up polling stations of their own. In some republics and regions, authorities added their own questions for voters to decide.

In the Russian Federation, for example, voters were asked about electing their own president, a position the radical Russian leader Boris Yeltsin is expected to win. In the Western Ukraine and the three Baltic republics, people were asked whether they want a fully independent state.

The main question in the referendum is: Do you think it necessary to preserve the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as a renewed federation of equal sovereign republics, in which human rights and liberties will be fully guaranteed for all nationalities?

The referendum was conducted in accordance with a resolution adopted last December at the Fourth Congress of People's Deputies, which formulated a law on this referendum. The law stipulates that any Soviet citizen above 18 who enjoys voting right

can take part in the referendum on a voluntary basis and that the listed question can be regarded as resolved as long as more than 50 percent of eligible voters participate and more than half of the voters vote yes.

The referendum came at a time when the Soviet Union is deeply plagued by growing independence-oriented forces in many of its 15 republics and deteriorating economic conditions. Founded on December 30, 1922, the Soviet Union is composed of more than 100 nationalities with no one in a predominant position. In the course of nearly 70 years of development, problems of ethnic rights and economic development have accumulated.

With the unfolding of President Mikhail Gorbachev's *perestroika* (restructuring) and *glasnost* (openness), opposition organizations have sprung up, and ethnic problems have surfaced. With the encouragement and incitement of opposition forces, secessionist forces have grown rapidly and inter-ethnic violence has erupted. Some republics unilaterally declared "independence," refusing to carry out laws and decisions of the central gov-



A Muscovite casts her ballot on March 17. *Ju Mengjun*

ernment and even openly seeking Western support and intervention in an attempt to break away from the Union. So deep is the social crisis in the Soviet Union, intermingled by political, ethnic, economic and social conflicts, that the newspaper *Soviet Russia* said, "A world power is on the verge of life and death."

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) stands for maintaining and renewing the Union, believing that for all nationalities, unity rather than disintegration is in the best interest of all. The status quo is that almost 75 million Soviets, or one quarter of the population, are living in the so-called "non-native" republics. The CPSU ins-

ists that only by joining together can the country's nationalities surmount the crisis and preserve the moral, cultural and social wealth that has already been achieved. The CPSU found support from the Congress of People's Deputies and the majority of members of the Supreme Soviet, the country's parliament.

An intensive political struggle was waged around the referendum. President Gorbachev, parliament and government leaders and the CPSU called on the people to take an active part in the voting and support the Union, while the six republics boycotted

it, claiming that they would impose sanctions against those local governments that took part in the voting. In the Russian Federation, some organizations bent on opposing the CPSU and socialism and taking over power called on the voters to oppose the Union. A Russian leader even wanted to "declare a political war against the central government." His remarks came under fire from various quarters.

The struggle, as it turned out, is a continuation of the battle between "two different goals and political policies" on the Soviet political stage. In an analysis of the current situation in January,

the CPSU Central Committee pointed out that "forces aimed at altering the Soviet Union's social system have completely taken shape and are trying to unite. They are attempting to remove from government those who are supportive of the socialist choice and turn the present *perestroika* retrogressive and anti-people."

The CPSU is amassing forces to protect the Union, uphold socialism and oppose the restoration of capitalism in the Soviet Union. Referendum results show that the Soviet people thirst for stability and unity, thus strengthening the pro-Union and pro-socialist forces. ■

# Thoughts on Human Rights Conference

Fan Guoxiang\*

For some time now, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and other competent organizations within the UN system have been considering how to better and more effectively promote human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Chinese delegation welcomes the forthcoming 1993 World Conference on Human Rights. It is eager, together with other countries, to actively participate in preparations and in making contributions necessary to assure success of the conference. Herewith, I would like to state our views and propositions on some issues related to the 1993 conference agenda.

The United Nations basic

guideline for dealing with human rights issues is the United Nations Charter which seeks to achieve "international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion." Nevertheless, in my opinion, for too long a period of time, the UN organizations considering human rights issues have been shrouded in a cold-war atmosphere characterized by fierce confrontation between opposing political groups and ideologies. The practice of double standards, selectiveness and utilitarianism has been prevalent. Some countries have used human rights issues as an instrument to pursue power politics, to interfere in the internal affairs of

other countries and to exert political pressure on small and weak countries.

It is my feeling that this attitude has undermined international co-operation in the field of human rights, poisoned international relations and impeded the realization of the objective of promoting the furtherance of human rights.

Now that big changes have taken place in international relations, the abnormal phenomena in the field of human rights within the UN system, which were created by confrontation and "cold war" antics, should, in my opinion, be redressed and eliminated.

The 1993 World Conference on Human Rights should, first of all, bring about some changes in this aspect. The major purposes of the conference should be the promotion of normal international co-operation in the field of

\* Excerpts of a speech made by Chinese Ambassador Fan Guoxiang at the 47th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights recently held in Geneva.

human rights and of harmony, mutual understanding and respect among all member states. The conference should give expression to the views on human rights held by countries of different political, economic and social systems or with different historical, religious and cultural backgrounds. And the conference should be held in the spirit of seeking common grounds while putting aside differences, of mutual respect and better mutual understanding, and of enhancing co-operation and mutual encouragement.

The practice of furthering one's own ideology and values by using human rights issues as a tool or of interfering in the internal affairs of other countries under the pretext of human rights will, no doubt, plunge the conference into an atmosphere of the "cold war" and confrontation prevalent in the years past. It is my belief that these practices should be firmly avoided from the very beginning. Only by doing so, can we take the opportunity provided by the preparation for the conference to establish correct guidelines in the field of human rights, and to genuinely realize the purpose of promoting international co-operation for protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, as stipulated in the UN Charter.

Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the UN system has successively formulated and adopted many instruments on human rights, thus greatly enriching and developing the concept of human rights as defined in the Universal Declaration. Today, human rights under our discussion are no longer confined to civil and political rights; they also include economic, social and cultural rights, as well as collective rights such as the right to self-determination and the right

to development. For this reason, the 1993 conference, in examining and reviewing UN work in the field of human rights, should not limit itself to the definition contained in the Universal Declaration. It should also take into consideration the principles established in other important human rights instruments, which have reflected the desire of a majority of countries since World War II. Here I would like to mention, in particular, the Teheran Proclamation adopted by the 1968 International Conference on Human Rights. The Teheran Proclamation reflects many new developments in international human rights activities since the Universal Declaration was adopted and has set objectives which the United Nations should strive to realize from that time forward.

The 1993 Conference on Human Rights is another international conference on human rights following the Teheran conference. Hopefully, one of its major agenda items will be review of the progress and results achieved in the human rights field since the adoption of the Teheran Proclamation as well as examination of existing problems.

In promoting the protection of human rights, how to handle the relationship between civil and political rights on the one hand, and economic, social and cultural rights, as well as various collective rights on the other, is an outstanding question being studied and explored continuously by the UN human rights organizations.

It was exactly on such a basis that the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 32/130 in 1977. The resolution explicitly pointed out that in approaching human rights questions, the UN system should accord priority to the mass violations of human rights resulting from racial dis-

crimination, apartheid, colonialism, foreign aggression, occupation and domination, as well as by refusal to recognize the right to self-determination and full sovereignty of countries over their wealth and natural resources. The resolution reiterated the principle of giving equal attention to the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights and the enjoyment of civil and political rights. It also emphasized that full realization of civil and political rights without the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights is impossible. The achievement of lasting progress in the implementation of human rights is dependent upon the establishment of sound and effective national and international policies of economic and social development.

These basic principles, stipulated in Resolution 32/130, reflect the reality in the international community and the common understanding of the international community of ways of promoting human rights. Since the adoption of the resolution, the UN system has taken measures for implementation. This merits appreciation. The current international situation is very different from that at the time of the 32nd session of the UN General Assembly. Yet the kind of mass violations of human rights as pointed out in the resolution still exist. The gap between the North and the South in development levels and the current international economic order still constitute major obstacles to the full enjoyment of human rights by a large number of developing countries. Therefore, in our view, the 1993 conference should pay great attention to these problems in this respect and work out concrete measures for further implementation of Resolution 32/130, thus promoting early solutions to the most important problems in the human rights field of our times. ■

*Entrusted by President Yang Shangkun, Yuan Mu, spokesman for the State Council and director of the State Council Policy Research Office, met and had a talk with US journalist Harrison E. Salisbury on January 28, 1991. Following is the full text of their talk. Some of the figures contained in the original have been corrected. The title and subheads are ours.—Ed.*

## Looking Towards Modernization By the Mid-21st Century

by Our staff Reporter Dong Yuguo

**Salisbury:** I know you have a very deep understanding of government policies and that you also have a good idea about China's future prospects. Could you speak about these in some detail?

**Yuan Mu:** A few days ago, when President Yang Shangkun met you, he outlined the economic and social development plan for the next ten years. I will now give you some more details and do my best to answer all of your questions.

Towards the end of 1978 and in early 1979, our country saw the convocation of the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, an event of great historic importance. Thereafter, in accordance with the proposal made by Comrade Deng Xiaoping, the CPC Central Committee set forth the strategy for China's modernization construction, a strategy to be carried out in three

steps. The first step called for doubling the 1980 gross national product in the ten years between 1981 and 1990 and basically solving the problem of food and clothing for the people. The second step called for doubling the 1990 GNP in the ten years between 1991 and 2000 and enabling the people to lead a well-to-do life. The third step envisioned catching up with the moderately developed countries in China's per-capita share of the GNP by the mid-21st century, say, the 2030s or 2050s, and basically achieving modernization. By then, the people will lead a fairly affluent life. The Seventh Plenary Session of the 13th CPC Central Committee, convened not long ago, confirmed once again the correctness of this strategic policy and its conformity with the Chinese situation.

The first-stage goal has been met. In the next ten years begin-

ning this year, we will work hard to achieve the second step, which calls for an average annual economic growth of about 6 percent over ten years. This rate of growth is somewhat lower than the speed of development which we have achieved in the 1980s. In the 1980s, as we carried out the Sixth and Seventh Five-Year Plans, the economic growth rate reached 10.1 percent during the Sixth Five-Year Plan and 7.6 percent during the Seventh Five-Year Plan. Therefore, in the next ten years, a 6 percent growth of our economy is a moderate achievement and is certain to be achieved given our continued efforts.

But there are two factors which have impressed upon us that the fulfillment of this goal will not be easy. First, compared with the 1980s, the cardinal figures of our economy in the 1990s are much larger. Calculat-



State Council spokesman Yuan Mu being interviewed by Salisbury.

XINHUA

ed in accordance with prices of the same year, the GNP in 1980 was 447 billion yuan and shot up to 1,740 billion yuan in 1990. Given this situation, in the next ten years, every increase of 1 percentage point entails much greater material quantity. This will bring more difficulties. Second, our economic structure at present is not rational enough and our economic results are not high. The focus of our future economic work should, therefore, be on efforts to optimize the economic structure and improve economic results. It should not be on the rate of growth. In other words, we will have to achieve an appropriate economic growth rate under the prerequisite of optimizing the economic structure and improving economic results. This is obviously a more difficult task.

### Readjustment of Economic Structure

**S:** What do you mean by the readjustment of economic structure?

**Y:** Optimizing the economic structure refers to improving the makeup of the national economy and the various proportionate relationships, such as those which exist between industry and agriculture, between the heavy and light industries, between various industrial trades, among the primary, secondary and tertiary industries and between accumulation and consumption. Only by readjusting these setups and proportionate relationships to a fairly rational degree and gradually moving towards modernization, can we maintain the sustained, stable and co-ordinated development of the national economy

and constantly improve the economic quality, thus meeting the need for step-by-step modernization.

**S:** Will you please describe this in detail?

**Y:** Take the proportionate relationship between light and heavy industries for example. For some time in the past, we imitated the Soviet Union's over-emphasis on heavy industry with the result that heavy industry and its companion services developed so fast that the public faced shortages in daily necessities. Later, we gradually readjusted the proportionate relationship between light and heavy industries. Now, heavy industry occupies 51 percent and light industry 49 percent, a more balanced relationship.

**S:** What was the former proportion between heavy and light

industries?

**Y:** In the past, heavy industry had over 60 percent and in the peak year of 1960 reached 66.6 percent.

**S:** For how long was this the situation?

**Y:** In the 1960s and the 1970s, the proportion of heavy industry remained high.

**S:** Does this include the whole of the 1960s? Was there any change during the "cultural revolution?"

**Y:** During the "cultural revolution," we still gave priority to the development of heavy industry. To achieve industrialization, it is necessary for underdeveloped countries to develop more of their heavy industry and have a higher proportion of this industry in the early stage. However, if this lasts too long, there will be a disproportion between heavy and light industries, resulting in a long period of shortages of industrial consumer goods, a situation which hampers the co-ordinated development of the national economy as a whole.

**S:** I believe there are two factors behind the economic problems in the Soviet Union. One is historical, namely the traditional importance given to heavy industry in history and the other is the collapse of the Soviet industrial structure as a whole. As you know, the Soviets come to China by train and plane to purchase consumer goods. From this, one sees that the industrial structure of the Soviet Union has collapsed.

**Y:** What I mentioned just now is just one factor contributing to the imbalance between heavy and light industries. There

are other reasons. Based on its past experience, China will not have major difficulties achieving an ideal economic development speed. The most difficult point lies in how to optimize the industrial structure and improve economic results.

**S:** With regard to the question concerning the proportionate relationship between heavy and light industries, do you have a goal in this regard for the end of the 1990s?

**Y:** In the next ten years, or by the end of this century, the proportion between heavy and light industries will continue by and large at its present level. To satisfy future development and have more strength for future economic development, we will strengthen construction of basic industries and infrastructure facilities, continue to actively develop energy, communications and raw material industries, and, at the same time, strive to regroup and renovate the processing industry so as to update their technical and managerial level. Let me tell you, Mr Salisbury, a little about our planned growth of industrial and agricultural products, products which are vital to the national economy and people's liv-

elihood, in the 1990s. If you are interested in this, I will do it. Otherwise, I won't.

**S:** I am very interested. I believe that a well-trained labour force constitutes an important prerequisite for good economic results. In order to enable China to become one of the world's technologically advanced countries, the nation needs a labour force which is well-trained, skilled and culturally educated. I wonder if you have a method of calculating labour efficiency.

**Y:** We have indexes which are used to calculate many kinds of economic results, and also an index on labour productivity for estimating the value created by each worker. We hope that, in the next ten years, labour productivity for society will increase 3.5 percent each year, 4 percent for the state-owned enterprises, a rate slightly lower than the growth of GNP. These two kinds of growth are, by and large, mutually acceptable. Different sectors of the national economy have different demands on economic growth. Since there is difference between industry and agriculture, we do not demand they have the same growth rate. The index for agricultural

**Expansion of the Yaoxian Cement Plant, a key state project for the Seventh Five-Year Plan period.**

ZHANG JIEFENG



growth is largely between 3 percent and 4 percent, that of industry around 7 percent, and that for the tertiary industry around 9 percent. To be specific, let me tell you the planned growth in output of several important industrial and agricultural products in the next ten years: **Grain**—435 billion kg in 1990 and 500 billion kg in 2000; **cotton**—85 million *dan* (each *dan* equals 50 kg) in 1990 and 100 million *dan* in 2000; **coal**—1.09 billion tons in 1990 and 1.4 billion tons in 2000; **steel**—65.8 million tons in 1990 and 80 million tons in 2000; and **petroleum**—138 million tons in 1990, 148 million tons in 1995 and more in 2000. At present, the output of China's coal and grain is the highest in the world.

**S:** What proportion does the output of the Daqing and Shengli oilfields make up of the national total?

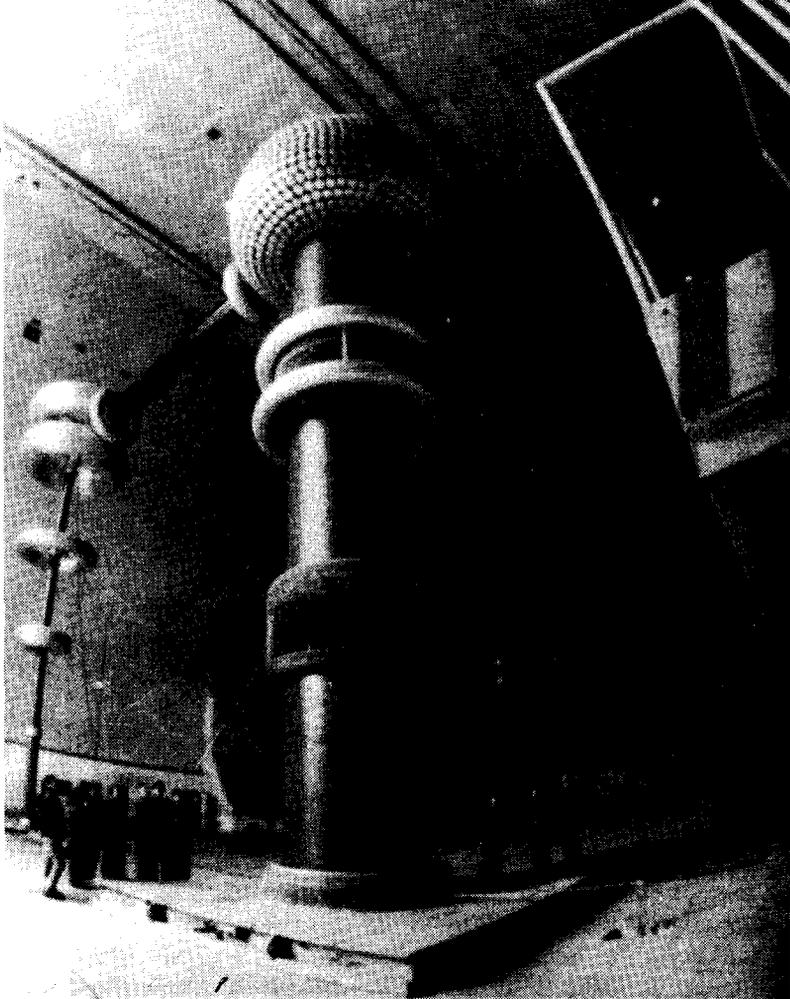
**Y:** The annual output of the Daqing Oilfield is 55.62 million tons, or 40 percent of the national oil production; that of the Shengli Oilfield is 33.5 million tons, accounting for 26 percent of the national total. In the next ten years, we will strive to maintain a stable output at the two major oilfields. But our future development of the oil industry lies mainly in the development of the oilfields in west China and offshore oilfields.

**S:** In 1987, when I went to visit Daqing, I had a good talk with people there. They told me that they planned to raise their annual production to 50 million tons in the 1990s. It seems to me that their goal is a reasonable one.

**Y:** Daqing has adopted some new technology to maintain a high and stable yield. This, however, has led to higher production cost.

**S:** You have done a lot in this regard.

**Y:** In 1990, our electricity generating capacity was 615 billion



ZHENG YONGJI

A key project for the Seventh Five-Year Plan period, the high-voltage laboratory of the Shenyang High-Voltage Switchgear Plant is able to carry out various insulation experiments for high-voltage equipment having a capacity of 500,000V and more.

kwh. The figure will increase to 1,100 kwh in 2000. The annual output of chemical fertilizers was 90 million tons in 1990 and will be 120 million tons in 2000.

**S:** Does the development of the power industry include the development of nuclear power stations?

**Y:** The development of power industry includes the development in three areas: One is hydroelectric power. As the country is rich in water resources, China will give priority to exploiting this resources in order to generate electricity at low cost. Second is thermal power. Major efforts will be made to develop the coal-pit power stations, that is, those power stations located close to coal mines. This is aimed to avoid the long-distance transport of coal. Third

is nuclear power, although this will not be extensive.

### **Exploiting Hong Kong's Economic Advantages**

**S:** In formulating policies for future development, do you take into consideration the role of Hong Kong after 1997? Will Hong Kong be of help to your economy? Have you taken into consideration Hong Kong investment in inland industry as you formulate economic plans? Do you plan to absorb Hong Kong investment for inland industry, especially light industry? Now, how much investment have you attracted from Hong Kong?

**Y:** There exist many economic ties between Hong Kong and the hinterland. Hong Kong relies on the hinterland and the hinter-

land uses Hong Kong as its window and base for developing foreign trade and economic and technological exchange with the outside world. I don't have on hand the detailed figures on Hong Kong's investment in the hinterland. I do know, however, that Hong Kong investment in the hinterland occupies a large proportion of the foreign investment introduced to date.

**S:** Hong Kong boasts very sophisticated technology in all fields. What influence will Hong Kong's return to the motherland exert on the mainland? After the return of Hong Kong with its well-developed light industry, do you plan to raise the proportion of light industry?

**Y:** Hong Kong is still in the transitional period and will not be returned until 1997. After its return in 1997, we will strive to maintain Hong Kong's existing social system. In particular, we will strive to maintain its economic prosperity and development so that it can hold on to its unique position. No steps will be taken to bring Hong Kong's economy into the framework of the mainland's economic development. We will continue to cash in on Hong Kong to expand foreign trade, attract foreign capital and introduce advanced technology. We will continue to energetically support Hong Kong by giving full scope to its advantages.

**S:** This is what I want to hear from you.

### **Public Ownership Dominant**

**Y:** China also reported a rapid development in its foreign trade in the last decade as the total volume of imports and exports rose to US\$115 billion in 1990 from US\$38.1 billion in 1980, a three-fold increase. In the next decade from 1991 to 2000, China will continue to expand its foreign trade to roughly keep pace

with its developing national economy. It will attract more foreign investments and import more advanced foreign technology and equipment. Last year, China established 4.87 times more Sino-foreign joint ventures, co-operative and solely foreign-owned enterprises than in 1986. The value of contracted foreign investment rose by 131.6 percent and that of actual foreign investment by 96.6 percent. Estimates show that in the coming decade, China will experience a big increase in this regard. As President Yang Shangkun said when he met with you, China's open policy will remain unchanged.

**S:** I'm not so good in mathematics and get no impression from what you just said about 4.87-fold increase. Do you know the exact figures for 1986?

**Y:** In 1986 China had 1,492 Sino-foreign joint ventures, co-operative and solely foreign-owned enterprises.

**S:** So China's contracted foreign investment increased by 131.6 percent and the implemented foreign capital went up by 96.6 percent. Can you explain this in detail?

**Y:** The contracted foreign investment totalled US\$6.37 billion in 1990 with just US\$3.175 billion used, compared with US\$2.75 billion and US\$1.615 billion respectively in 1986.

**S:** Now I understand.

**Y:** Maybe you are interested in the proportion of the industrial output value of the foreign-funded enterprises and individually owned and private business to the nation's total, in other words, the structure of China's industrial ownerships. Let me tell you something about it. At present, of the nation's total industrial output value, that of the state enterprises accounts for 56.1 percent, the collective enterprises 35.7 percent, the individually owned and private enterprises 4.7 percent and the

foreign-funded enterprises 3.4 percent. So the public ownership still occupies a dominant position. Other economic elements account for a small proportion but, in my opinion, can be further developed.

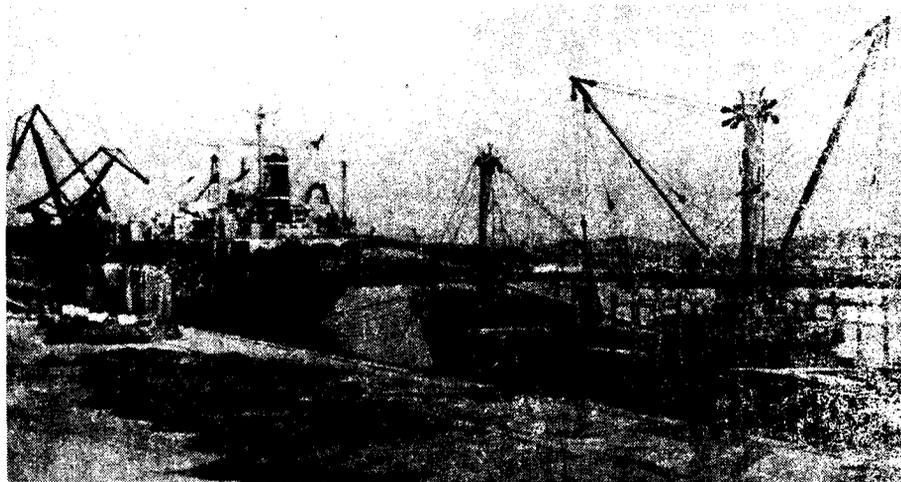
**S:** Do you think this situation will remain unchanged until 2000?

**Y:** It is difficult to tell you what the exact situation will be like at that time, but what seems certain is that the state and collective ownership will still have dominance. On this premise, the proportion of individually owned, private, Sino-foreign joint ventures, co-operative and solely foreign-owned enterprises will be a little higher than today.

**S:** Can you estimate the proportion of the foreign-funded enterprises in 2000? Will it be somewhere between 10-12 percent?

**Y:** No, I'm sorry, I can't make any correct estimate now. Your estimate may be correct. I think the figure will not be higher than yours and may be a little less. For quite some time in the past, we believed that the purer the ownership structure, the better it would be, and the bigger in size and of a more developed socialist nature, the better. We limited the development of non-public ownership and even wanted to eliminate it, not to say introducing foreign investment. As a result, economic vitality was stifled and development slowed down. Today, we have drawn lessons from this and, while persisting in the development of economic sectors with public ownership, allow and encourage the appropriate development of individual, private and foreign-funded enterprises. This has helped enliven China's economy. We will carry out this policy for a long period of time to come.

**S:** What was the proportionate makeup of the state and collective enterprises when the "cultur-



LI YONGHONG  
Four deep-water berths at Yingkou's Bayuquan Harbour area recently passed state evaluation.

al revolution" ended?

**Y:** By that time, the state and collective enterprises accounted for more than 99 percent. Except for an extremely small handful of individual pedlars, individual and private economies and foreign-funded enterprises were almost non-existent.

The World Bank issued statistics on China's comprehensive economic strength. Although I think the data are somewhat higher than reality, I'll give you some figures for your reference. The World Bank estimates that in terms of population, natural resources, industry, agriculture, science and technology, education, national defence and potentials, China ranked 13th in 1949, ninth in 1980 and sixth today. It also estimates that after China realizes its ten-year development programme targets it will rank fifth in the world. This estimate may not be very accurate, but you can see the gap in economic and technological fields between China and the rest of the world has narrowed, not widened, after 41 years of construction since liberation and especially in the last decade.

**S:** What about after 2000? Mr Deng Xiaoping once said that

China would reach the level of the moderately developed countries in the mid-21st century.

**Y:** Yes. I have already explained that China will develop its economy and society in three stages. By the end of this century when China reaches its targets for the second strategic step, our country will enter into the third and higher development stage. That means that in the mid-21st century, or in the 2030s or 2050s, the average per-capita GNP will reach US\$4,000, the level of the moderately developed countries. Modernization will be basically realized. This was first proposed by Comrade Deng Xiaoping and was recognized as feasible by the Party Central Committee after repeated discussions. From 1980 to 2000, China's GNP will quadruple. Estimates show that in the next century, although the cardinal figures of our economy will much bigger, it would be possible for China's GNP to quadruple again in three or five decades, with the average per-capita GNP reaching US\$4,000. However, as the estimates for the next century involve numerous international and domestic factors which we now can hardly predict, we only have tentative ideas, not a de-

tailed plan.

**S:** With regard to the plan for future development, there should not only be a plan for the last ten years of this century but also a plan for the first ten years of the next century.

**Y:** When we entered the 1990s, we drew a plan for the economic and social development in the last ten years of this century and clearly defined the targets, principles, policies and measures for

their implementation. We also drew up the Eighth Five-Year Plan for the implementation of the ten-year programme in the first five years of the last decade. I don't think it will be too late to make a ten-year plan and a five-year plan for the next century according to the concrete conditions when we near the year 2000. At present, we are not so clear about the situation in the next century. If we are hurried into making a plan and defining targets, we may have difficulty in meeting them.

## Educational Development

**S:** China has abundant labour force. What are your plans to increase productivity and improve work efficiency?

**Y:** This is an important problem worthy of conscientious consideration for the development of our economy and society. In the 1980s, after the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee, we emphasized the development of science, technology and education. Our efforts in that decade promoted the popularization of primary school education in 70 percent of

the counties throughout the country and junior middle school education in most cities. At present there are 42.5 million middle school students and 120 million primary school pupils. The enrollment of the institutions of higher learning is 2.08 million while the scientific and technological contingent is more than 10 million. In the early post-liberation days, 80 percent of China's population was illiterate. Today the figure has dropped to 15.9 percent. However, science, technology and education are still lagging behind economic and social development. More efforts are needed in this field.

**S:** Can you tell me about the increase in financial allocation for education between 1980-90? What will be the increase in 2000 and in the 21st century?

**Y:** China put aside 44.35 billion yuan for education in 1988, compared with 14.55 billion yuan in 1980, an average increase of 14.9 percent a year. In the 1989-90 period there was an about-the-same rate of growth. According to the ten-year plan for this century, educational expenditures will increase at a rate higher than that of the GNP. Certainly, next century will see a bigger increase in order to keep pace with economic and social development. Today, however, I am unable to tell you the exact figures.

**S:** That's all right. Of course, if you want to take a lead in technology, you have to put more money in education. If you develop education at a slower speed than economic growth, your economic development will slow down. Each time I came to China, I found this problem that should have been solved remained unsettled.

**Y:** I agree with you. Exactly speaking, the problem which China should have solved is being tackled but has not been



*XIONG RUQING*

Equipment for processing 200,000 tons of synthetic ammonia recently began operation at the Sichuan General Chemical Plant.

fully solved. If the quality of labouring people is not improved, China will find it difficult to develop its economy and society. Of this, there is no doubt. China, however, has yet another problem. First of all we have to ensure food and clothing for 1.1 billion people. If we fail in this regard, everything else is out of the question. China's economic and social development in the next ten years will therefore focus on the following three fields: First, agriculture. Agriculture is the nation's foundation. Without its steady progress, there will be no stable development in China's economy and society. Second, basic industries and infrastructures. Without progress in this field, any economic and social development will have no strong support. Lastly, science, technology and education. Their development calls for more efforts and more financial input.

**S:** I'm very glad you have given education top priority because only by developing education can other targets be realized. If science, technology and education were to occupy less emphasis and not to be developed, you would be wise over petty matters but stupid over important ones.

**Y:** National economic and social development cannot be divorced from education, science and technology. The absolute amount of funds earmarked for science, technology and education may be less than that for industry and agriculture but their proportion will increase gradually. We share the same view as you.

**S:** I think the investment in this field will never be too much. China has many students and scientists being trained abroad. Quite a lot of them are in the United States. They are all very brilliant and have won almost all the scholarships. Why doesn't China spend much more money and train them at home? If this isn't done, I think it is a big mistake.

**Y:** Before the ten-year plan and the Eighth Five-Year Plan were drawn up, China made a decision to train senior scientists and technicians and other talented people mainly at home. But it needs great efforts.

**S:** You can do it if you consider it important to your plans.

**Y:** We already have a plan to train senior specialists through reliance on our own efforts. But the laboratory equipment and

methods in some new, high and sophisticated technological fields are not good enough and they limit the training of talented people in these fields. To speed up modernization of the country and to further open the country to the outside world, we will continue to send a certain number of people to be trained in the developed countries according to the needs of the state. This is still our state policy.

**S:** This is true. But if you are willing to spend money, you can invite foreign scientists to teach in China. I see China spending great sums of money building hotels in the last few years instead of investing in education.

**Y:** I appreciate your frankness in telling us our problem. I agree that China has built too many luxury hotels. But we have decided to strictly limit and forbid the construction of hotels and restaurants for quite a long time to come except those needed in a few tourist centres and so as to meet the need of growing international tourism.

### **Social Security System**

**S:** Has China any laws regarding the bankruptcy of the township and state enterprises?

**Y:** China has already promulgated a bankruptcy law but the system on bankruptcy is far from perfect. The bankruptcy of many enterprises will increase unemployment and create social unrest. We hope enterprises will keep going. We encourage enterprises to merge into groups in order to improve operation of those in a bad shape.

**S:** How many enterprises have gone bankrupt? To my knowledge, there are only five or six.

**Y:** I don't know the exact figure. In general, they are not many, but they may be more than five or six.

**S:** How many enterprises have been merged?

**Y:** We now have more than 1,000 enterprise groups, some tightly and some loosely organized.

**S:** Did all the enterprises of the more than 1,000 groups perform well before they were merged?

**Y:** Not all. Some good enterprises merged together and have since performed much better, and some good enterprises merged with some poor enterprises. We encourage enterprises of all kinds to form horizontal alliances and establish enterprise groups so long as they conform with the principle of optimizing resources and productive elements and proper distribution of productive forces. At the same time, we are trying to establish and perfect the social security system so as to reduce obstacles to the close-down, suspension, amalgamation and switching of production to other products, efforts made to enhance economic results.

**S:** China has a backward social security system. Do you have any plan for establishing a new social security system?

**Y:** Whether it is backward or not, we need to make a concrete analysis of it. An overwhelming majority of Chinese workers and staff members are well treated in their retirement, during in-house lay-off, work injuries, and for medical care. So for most Chinese workers and staff members, they have guarantees in these fields. The main problem in this respect is the irrational mechanism. In the past, our security system for workers and staff members was only applicable within the enterprises. As a result, in some old enterprises the number of the retired which they must care for account for one-third, 50 percent, or even more of the total job payroll. These enterprises cannot afford such a big burden. We are now reforming this by introducing a

method of overall social arrangement. In the past, we failed to give full attention to the development of social security. So, yes, it is quite backward and we are now investing more funds in social insurance.

**S:** This is in full swing or has just begun?

**Y:** Many cities have begun introducing this method.

**S:** Will China have a modern social security system by the year 2000?

**Y:** I am not sure whether China will have a modern social security system by then. But with the growth of the economy and the deepening of the reform, it is likely that the system will have improved by the year 2000. We will make efforts to gradually perfect it.

**S:** Let's suppose that we are now in 2025. Then what will the situation be like?

**Y:** I'm spokesman for the government so it is improper for me to make any ill-founded forecasts. But, I think, by that time, with the growth of our country's economy and social progress, it is certain to be much better.

**S:** Will this social security system cover the retired, injured and disabled?

**Y:** Yes, it will cover retirement, in-house lay-off, work accidents and medical care.

### **Economic Development**

**S:** China's economy seems to be less influenced by the world economy than perhaps other countries, as in the 1930s when the world economy was hit by a recession. However, should China suffer such an attack, are there any protective measures? If such factors as the supply of raw materials and the market will exert impact on China's economy, what will China do?

**Y:** We have considered these problems. We considered that the unfair economic competition

in the world in the 1990s would be more acute than in the 1980s. We have also considered the possibility of a world economic recession when we were formulating our ten-year economic development programme. But we have advantages to fall back on. China has a vast territory and rich resources. We also have difficulties. We run short of funds and our technical standing is low. The international economic situation in the future will be hard for us in some aspects. However, such a vast market like China is attractive to the international community. "When it is dark in the east, it is bright in the west." That is, there is always a way out. China and many countries and regions in the world can supplement each other's needs economically. I think China's economic development will always have a lot of room to manoeuvre.

**S:** Yes, I think so as well.

**Y:** We will continue to carry on the policy of opening to the outside world and do our best to carve up a bigger share of the international market. We have opportunities. Should a serious recession occur in the world economy, no doubt, it would exert an impact on the development of China's economy, but not as much as it does those countries heavily dependent on foreign trade. We can stand up to it. I think no matter how sluggish the world economy is, China's economy will not fluctuate too much, since it is chiefly based on the domestic market.

**S:** What sectors of China's economy develop faster than its average growth rate? What are the major economic sectors?

**Y:** I think the electronics, petro-chemical, auto, and construction industries will see a rapid growth in the next ten years.

**S:** What do you mean by the construction industry?

**Y:** By construction industry, I mean the construction of such key projects as factories, power stations, railways, harbours and airports as well as housing. In the coming ten years, in order to improve the standard of living, we will spend much more of our resources on improving the living conditions of both urban and rural dwellers, especially urban workers and staff members.

**S:** I'm going to ask you some questions about housing. In Jixiang I saw spacious tile-roofed houses built by the farmers themselves. In Beijing, there are also many of the same kind of houses. But I noticed that many houses in the countryside are quite primitive. China's houses are not of top quality and so I am glad to hear that you want to build more houses for workers and staff members.

**Y:** In the coming ten years, we will try hard to improve living conditions. Chinese farmers build houses on their own. In the past, urban houses were put under the care of the state, and the rent was low. In the future, farmers will still build houses themselves but the urban housing system will have to be reformed by properly marking up the rents or selling some houses to workers and staff members, with the money coming from the work units or partially from the workers and staff members. To put it in a more detailed way, I'll give you an example. The rent usually accounts for only 2 to 3 percent of an average urban worker's salary. I am a ministerial-level cadre and have a better and more spacious house and so the rent is higher. Even so, it accounts for only 7 to 8 percent of my salary. The rent collected by the state is not even enough for maintenance. If this housing system is not reformed, it will be difficult to speed up the construction of houses for urban workers.

**S:** Will you introduce a method of installment payments?

**Y:** In the past, the state built houses for distribution to workers and staff members as a welfare benefit. In the future, we will see houses as a kind of commodity to be circulated in society and gradually commercialize them. To this end, an installment payment is feasible.

### The Role of the PLA

**S:** Another question is whether the role of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) will change in the future. Unlike other foreigners, I think the PLA plays the role not only in national defence but also in social construction.

**Y:** Your observation is correct. The PLA's role will not change in the future. The normal order of our society is maintained by the people's police. The PLA, apart from fulfilling the task of defending the country, the state's security and social stability, also takes part in socialist construction, and participates in the construction of such key projects as railways, highways and power stations. When such natural calamities as fire, flooding and earthquake occur, the PLA is a major force to combat these calamities. Wherever the PLA troops are stationed, they cultivate close relations with the local people and, together with local governments, build socialism, give local people an education in ideals and ethics and build a strong civilization. The Red Army you mentioned in your book *Long March: The Untold Story* is the predecessor of our present PLA. The PLA often sends its officers and men to localities to give local people a traditional education.

**S:** I am familiar with what you have said. I've talked with PLA soldiers and I know what the PLA is now doing. Can you predict whether the PLA's role in so-

ciety will be strengthened in the future?

**Y:** The PLA is the mainstay of our country's political power and a great wall of steel defending the country and its people. Together with the Chinese people, the PLA takes part in socialist construction. The PLA will always remain a people's army under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party. It will always be the people's own army and cement blood-and-flesh ties with the people.

**S:** Unlike others, I see the PLA's role differently. The PLA, apart from the duty of defending the country, takes part in social construction. This makes it different from armies of other countries, which defend their countries in wartime and conduct military training during peace time. Do you think the PLA will play a bigger role after 2000?

**Y:** I think your view about the PLA is correct and in conformity with China's reality. But I have one word to add. Our army also attaches importance to military drills so as to beef up its capacity for national defence. The tradition that "localities and people support the army and give preferential treatment to families of revolutionary army men and martyrs and the army supports the government and cherishes the people" highlights the strong relationship between the Chinese people and the army.

**S:** I understand this situation. If it were not the case, the PLA's special role in society would not exist. Let me ask you a question regarding China in the year 2000. During the 1978-79 period, when Mr Deng Xiaoping was reinstated in his position, he once envisaged to shake China off the "cultural revolution." By 2000, Deng Xiaoping will probably have died. He once said he wanted to live to see the achievements of 2000. What do you imagine

China will be like in 2000?

### **Building Socialism With Chinese Characteristics**

**Y:** This is a wide open question. By the year 2000 and beyond, the basic social system of China as it is today will remain unchanged. This social system is neither of a traditional pattern nor, as some have said, of a "Stalinistic pattern," but socialism with Chinese characteristics. It will be economically more vigorous, politically more democratic, ethically better, and, in terms of human relations, will be more understanding, respectful and helpful. The standard of living will be much improved. At the same time, we will strive to prevent the widening of the gap between the rich and the poor and the polarization between them. We will maintain public ownership of the means of production in a dominant position and allow other ownerships to co-exist. In terms of mechanism of economic operation, we will carry out a planned economy while giving play to the regulatory role of the market in order to have better integration of planned economy and market regulation. As for ideology, we will, under the guidance of Marxism, carry forward the national culture, and absorb the best part of world culture, including advanced technology, advanced experiences and all of the other benefits presented by capitalist countries, making them serve the consolidation and development of socialism.

China is a unified multinational country. We stand for equality and mutual help, unity and co-operation, and common prosperity among various nationalities. We are opposed to majority nationalities discriminating against minority nationalities and against activities aimed at splitting the country. We are for

a country of national unity. Today, national contradictions are quite acute in some countries and regions in the world. We will try everything in our power to prevent this in China. We will not allow the phenomenon of national splits to emerge in China. In foreign relations, we will adhere to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, develop friendly relations with every country in the world, oppose hegemonism and be willing to establish a new international political and economic order and safeguard world peace and development together with all countries in the world on the basis of peaceful coexistence, equality and mutual benefit. We hope that before the end of this century or early next century we will solve the issue of Taiwan based on the principle of "one country, two systems," thus realizing peaceful reunification of the country.

**S:** Mr Deng Xiaoping envisaged separation of the Party from the government. Has there been any progress in this respect? I don't think you have made any progress now, but will there be any progress after the year 2000?

**Y:** Separating the functions of the Party from those of the government is an important principle put forward by Comrade Deng Xiaoping for the reform of China's political system. In recent years, we have carried out this principle during the reform and made progress. Here, I would like to give you a recent example. The Party Central Committee's Proposals for Ten-Year Development Programme for National Economic and Social Development and the Eighth Five-Year Plan passed at the Seventh Plenary Session of the 13th Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party held at the end of last year put forward proposals for targets of development and major policies

and principles in the coming ten years. They are only proposals, not orders imposed on the government and people. Our government, or the State Council, will conscientiously consider these proposals, formulate the detailed Ten-Year Programme and the Eighth Five-Year Plan for submission to the National People's Congress to be held in March of this year for examination. After they are approved by the congress, efforts will be made to organize the entire Chinese public to put them into practice. I think this practice itself embodies the principle of separating the functions of the Party from those of the government. Our government accepts the political leadership and principled leadership of the Communist Party, while the Party refrains from interfering with the everyday work of the government. This is what we say separating the functions of the Party from those of the government.

**S:** As far as the separation of the Party and government is concerned, the State Council should have the right to accept or refuse the Party's proposals. Now, I think the State Council has never refused the Party's proposals so I don't see any progress in separating the Party and government. You have not separated the Party and government.

**Y:** Obviously, my view is not the same as yours. The Chinese Communist Party is the only ruling Party in China. We persist in strengthening the leadership of the Communist Party over the state, as stipulated in our Constitution. In China, the government will not and is not allowed to resist the Party. Comrade Deng Xiaoping's aim in speaking of the separation of the functions of the Party from those of the government is to enable the Party to better play its leading role instead of weakening the Party's leading role. Therefore, we

should better safeguard and not resist the Party's leadership. This principle conforms with the historical tradition of our country and its reality. In this practice, we do not require that others maintain the same view as ours. But one will be unable to see the separation of the Party and government at present or in the future, if he judges whether China has realized the separation of the Party and government by such criterion as the government refusing or resisting the Party's leadership. We will not introduce the Western system of two parties or more wielding the power in turn. In China, we have eight democratic parties. They support the leadership of the Communist Party and they participate in the administration of the government under the leadership of the Communist Party. The relations between these democratic parties and the Communist Party are not those of a ruling and opposition party, but relations of mutual co-operation and mutual help like people in the same boat.

**S:** Thank you for your patient answers to my questions. This is the most unforgettable interview I have had and I will remember it forever.

**Y:** I am glad to have the opportunity to answer your questions. In the capacity of an ordinary Chinese citizen, I would like to say a few words about the relations between China and the United States and the relations between China and the Soviet Union. The Chinese people are very much willing to develop friendly relations with the United States. I visited the United States three times. I respect the American people and especially like their straightforwardness and honesty. But, I also have an impression that many American people are impetuous and more often than not will impose on others their criterion of right and wrong. I understand that it is

probably because of the position the United States holds in the world today. If we all adhere to the same principle of leaving the government and people of a country alone to handle their own internal affairs, the relations between countries will be normal and the world will be all the more peaceful.

The relationship between China and the Soviet Union was once quite good, but there were also ups and downs. Gorbachev's China visit in 1989 normalized the relations between the two countries, and there has been a lot of progress and co-operation in many fields since then. Now dramatic changes are taking place in the Soviet Union. Although we have a different opinion of events, we have agreed not to launch an open debate on the issues involved. We will, however, continue to maintain friendly relations with the Soviet Union on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. I want to thank you very much for listening to me with such patience.

**S:** I agree with you on the issue of Sino-US and Sino-Soviet relations. Last year, I visited the Soviet Union and saw the situation deteriorating. I am very concerned that the situation will become even worse. The relations between China and the United States are normal and healthy. I believed this even before China threw its door open and accepted my visit. In regard to the impetuosity of the American people, I believe our nation is very young and lacks discipline; it is like a spoiled child. China, on the other hand, is a nation with a long history and I hope you are tolerant towards us.

**Y:** I hope people of the two countries will continue to strengthen their exchanges and deepen their mutual understanding. □

# Democrats Active in Political Forum

by Our Staff Reporter Wu Naitao

*China's practice of a system of multi-party co-operation under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party is realized through both democratic party members and non-party members holding leading posts in the government. This article introduces several members of democratic parties who hold important posts in the government and judicial organs.—Ed.*

**P**an Beilei, 49, vice-minister of the light industry, is an alternate member of the Central Committee of the Jiu San Society, one of China's eight democratic parties, and also the first woman vice-minister of Taiwan's Gaoshan nationality. Pan, an engineer who attained many achievements in her research of wine-making and other branches of the light industry, once served as deputy governor of Shaanxi Province. Currently, the country has 18 non-Communist Party members like Pan holding leading posts in ministries and commissions under the State Council and in provincial people's governments and judicial organs. These non-Communist Party leaders respectively come from the Revolutionary Committee of the Kuomintang, the China Democratic League, the China Democratic National Construction Association and the Jiu San Society, or are independents. Most of them are capable experts and scholars in one field or other with political integrity and a depth of knowledge. All have made remarkable achievements in their posts.

## Fighting Corruption

Since the re-establishment of the Ministry of Supervision in

1987, it has played an important role in fighting against embezzlement and corruption at all levels of the government. By exposing some important cases, the Ministry of Supervision is now enjoying an increasingly good reputation in China's society. Some of the key cases were handled by Feng Tiyun, vice-minister of supervision and vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the China Democratic National Construction Association. Having worked with Feng for more than two years, Minister Wei Jianxing recalled that Feng was in charge of the most problem-plagued departments and, therefore, shouldered very heavy tasks. Feng impressed Wei by his boldness, sense of responsibility and daring in handling problems.

In a simple office of the Ministry of Supervision located in the north suburbs of Beijing, this reporter interviewed Feng, once a leading figure of the industrial and commercial circles and now a high-ranking government supervisory official. Although it is not news that non-Communist Party members hold leading government posts, some people still doubt their validity, believing they are a kind of "decoration" and have no powers. When some people who recently came from Taiwan on a visit to the main-

land raised such a question to Feng Tiyun, he answered, laughing, "You can see for yourself. Am I a flower vase used for decoration? Do I look as the kind of people who feel content with doing nothing?"

Since Feng assumed his office in the Ministry of Supervision in February 1988, he has been in charge of three departments involving foreign affairs, foreign trade, finance, banking, railways, transport and communications, construction and agriculture and exercised supervisory powers in ten provinces and autonomous regions in south and southwest China. In addition, Feng is always responding to public letters, visits and reports.

In March 1990, former railway minister Luo Yunguang was removed from his post by the State Council because he seriously neglected his duty and accepted bribes. Because Luo was the first official at the ministerial level to be openly prosecuted, the case became the front-page news. Feng was involved in the entire process, from first receiving the report against Luo to placing the case on file for investigation and during the the ensuing prosecution, including interviews with Luo Yunguang. When dealing with the cases, no matter what level of officials, either at the



XU XIANGJUN

Pan Beilei (second left) inspects production at Huayi Cloisonne Factory.

provincial and ministerial level or ordinary staff members, Feng upheld a reliance on facts and evidence. He noted that the cases he dealt with were related to the political life of the persons concerned and thus needed to be carefully examined.

As he upholds principles, he works in a concrete and stable way, demanding that every conclusion be derived from evidence. He never leaves the slightest room-for doubt nor any ambiguous problem unresolved. During his examination of one case, he found an unexplained discrepancy of 1,400 yuan. In the conclusion of the report, there appeared the sentence, referring to the discrepancy as "perhaps it is...." In response, Feng asked for the case to be reopened. He says that if problems exist, evidence must be given and, if there are

no problems, facts must be clarified. There should be no "perhaps" in any case.

In the Ministry of Supervision, Feng is very strict with the staff, many of whom are directors and department leaders and members of the Chinese Communist Party. He has great respect for and trust in them and often exchanges views with them. He listens to their opinions and invites them to make suggestions. Once a decision is made, though, he demands that members carry it out to the letter conscientiously. Recently, there was a case involving a department under the State Council. Feng asked his staff to take part in the entire investigatory process. However, the persons in charge of the

case did not do as Feng instructed and made a conclusion of the case based on the responsible department's report. When the investigatory materials were submitted to Feng, he discovered the problem and so asked the supervisors to do the work over in a more conscientious manner. Afterwards, relevant departments under the ministry summed up their experiences and drew the appropriate lessons, handling the given case in much greater detail.

At 65, Feng, healthy and full of energy, is also a member of the Standing Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), and vice-director of the China Professional Education Society. He devotes the majority of his time to his duties as a vice-minister in charge of super-

vision. Sometimes, he also takes part in the leading work of the China Democratic National Construction Association and the CPPCC. When he was interviewed, he was preparing for a discussion with the members of his party over the weekend regarding suggestions to be made at a democratic consultative conference, held by the CPC Central Committee, on the proposals which were later adopted by the Seventh Plenary Session of the 13th CPC Central Committee on behalf of the China Democratic National Construction Association.

"My character," Feng said, "led me to my supervisory work." The vice-minister is also a senior economist and has been engaged in economic work for many years. He once served as a factory director and manager of a private bank. When he worked on probation in a private bank of Shanghai as a teenager, he was well known among his colleagues for his speaking out against racketeers. Now, in a different time and post, he continues his arduous battle against all evil doings.

### Making Use of Talent

In the 1950s, Shen Junru, New China's first president of the Supreme People's Court, and Shi Liang, minister of justice, were representatives of democratic parties active in politics. Last September, Duanmu Zheng, a well-known expert of International Law and member of the Standing Committee of the China Democratic League, was elected vice-president of the Supreme People's Court and member of the Judicial Commission.

Duanmu Zheng, fluent in French, English and Russian, has a wide range of knowledge of law, history and political science. He used to be a professor and director of the law department of

the Zhongshan University, and once served as director of the Institute of Jurisprudence. In the last ten years, he not only lectured to postgraduate students on the history of international law, the history of treaties and the law of war, but also compiled *The Dictionary of the History of French Revolution*. He also edited *International Law*, China's self-study material for higher education and presided over the study of Sino-foreign economic law for the special economic zones in Guangdong—a key state project of the Sixth Five-Year Plan. He has won high praise from his students and colleagues, as well as from among foreign law circles.

In 1985, Professor Duanmu was appointed, by the National People's Congress, a drafting committee member for the Basic Law of the People's Republic of China for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. He was also a member of the committee's political system group. Together with other members, he was charged with a study of Hong Kong's political system after 1997. Always enthusiastic and co-operative, he made use of his wide knowledge to successfully fulfil the task assigned.

From 1980, Duanmu was elected deputy to people's congresses at different levels. In 1988, he was elected vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of Guangdong People's Congress. As an NPC deputy, he has suggested a revision of the Constitution and the drafting of local laws, recommendations which have caught the attention of the relevant departments.

His post of president of the Supreme People's Court has brought home to Professor Duanmu the importance of his mission. "Since the founding of New China in 1949," he said, "the democratic parties have been working together with the

Chinese Communist Party for the construction of the socialist legal system." He stressed that China's modernization drive desperately needed improvements in the socialist legal system. He noted that "democratic parties, as they participate in political affairs, must help build such a legal system."

In March 1989, Hong Fuzeng, member of the Central Commit-

my alley."

Hong deems implementation basic state policy of "developing agriculture by science and technology" his primary task. In his work to expedite scientific and technological development in the Academy of Agricultural Science, he adopted many measures, such as selecting scientific research projects and encouraging intellectuals to go to the rural



CHEN ZONGLIE  
Vice-Minister Feng Tiyun (second right) discusses an important case with his colleagues.

tee of the Jiu San Society, resigned from his post of president of the Jilin Academy of Agricultural Science and came to the Ministry of Agriculture to serve as vice-minister in charge of the scientific, technological and educational work. Talking about his new responsibility, the herbage expert, who worked in the Academy of Agricultural Science for decades, said, "With my past experience I find the work tight up

areas to help with local work, in order to make practical use of scientific research results. He said that currently only 30 to 40 percent of the scientific research results have been applied to production. In his view, there is a great potential for advancement in agricultural production.

Lu Ming, 51, member of the China Democratic National Construction Association, served as deputy governor of Gansu Prov-

ince for six years. A wheat breeding expert, he spends more than half of his time each year in the countryside. In November 1989, when he learnt that most of the wheat in Qingyang Prefecture was affected by wheat rust and pondery mildew, he quickly organized eight experts to rush to the affected areas to deal with the problem and saw to it that the supply of farm chemicals, chemical fertilizer, funds and other materials was guaranteed. By May 1990, when wheat rust appeared in many areas throughout the province, the supply and marketing departments had already shipped 300 tons of farm chemicals from other provinces, thus ensuring an adequate supply. Because the problem was dealt with promptly, the province's summer grain output increased by 2 percent over the previous year, with the total output reaching over 4.2 million tons.

**Taking Practical Steps**

In 1986, 54-year-old senior engineer Han Nanpeng, a demo-

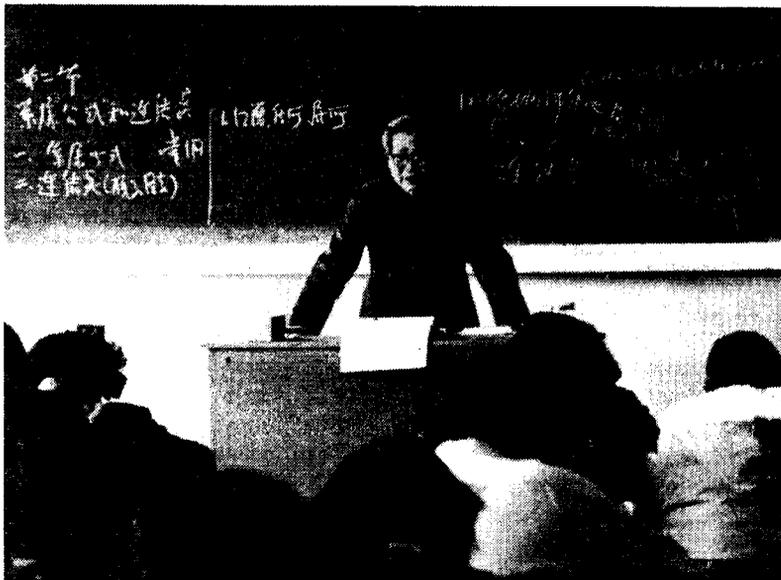


LI MINGYI  
Vice-President Duanmu Zheng.

cratic personage without any party affiliation, was elected deputy-governor of Hubei Province by the Hubei People's Congress. In May 1988, in a competitive election at the provincial Seventh People's Congress, he was again elected deputy-governor by a high margin, winning strong support from deputies because of the achievements he had made since assuming off-

State special auditor Zhang Shangjin, member of the China Democratic National Construction Association and professor of Law at the People's University of China, gives a lecture to students.

YANG LIMING



ice.

In one instance, when Han came to Zhaoshan Township, Ezhou City, to inspect the educational work there, he found the primary school buildings very poor but the office building of the township government beautiful and new. He angrily declared the school site closed immediately and ordered the students to hold classes in the office building until the dangerous classrooms were renovated. The action was highly praised by the public in Ezhou City. A group was soon established by the city government to ensure improvement in school conditions. It quickly discovered 33 other schools needing repair and supervised the progress of the renovation projects.

There are nearly 20 million cubic metres of rock along a section of the Yangtze River passing through Hubei Province in danger of collapsing. Despite the fact that the local navigation, geology, seismology and hydrology departments had spent many years to gather material and data for correcting the problem, the results of their study were not shared, resulting in the waste of time and resources. After taking charge of the project, Han cooperated with each of the relevant departments and even took to the 700-metre-high cliffs himself. He very quickly collected a great deal of data, on the basis of which he drafted a plan for controlling the rock collapsing and landslide.

Professor Wang Wenyuan, Who had been teaching at the Liaoning University for more than 30 years, was elected deputy-governor of Liaoning Province by the Liaoning People's Congress in early 1988 in his capacity as vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Jiu San Society. Wang is in charge of the educational work and has led the leading members of the province's educational commission to

undertake serious investigations at the grass-root units, mobilized schools for work-study programmes and encouraged a province-wide fund raising effort. Several million yuan of educational funds are collected annually for the province, an accomplishment which is well received by people throughout the educational establishment. When he first assumed office, the province had nearly 1 million square metres of dangerous school buildings. After one and a half years of efforts, all dangerous buildings in the province's insti-

tutions of higher learning and middle and primary schools were renovated.

Chen Kuizun, a member of the Standing Committee of the China Democratic League, has held his post for two terms since being elected deputy-governor of Jiangxi province by the province's sixth people's congress in January 1985. He has conscientiously carried out the central government's line, principles and policies. His attitude, though firm, is neither mechanical nor blind.

A few years ago, after the pol-

icy of nine-year compulsory education was promulgated by the National People's Congress, the educational commission of Jiangxi Province formulated concrete plans for its implementation. Chen frankly criticized the plan as not in accordance with the province's actual conditions and that the plan's requirements were excessive which would result in coercion, commandism and deception in implementation. He suggested an investigation and, because of his intervention, the provincial educational commission finally revised the plan. ■

# CDL Advises on Yellow River Development

by Our Staff Reporter Cheng Gang

This article describes how an important proposal was presented by the China Democratic League (CDL), one of China's eight democratic parties, for the country's construction. These parties actively participate in the political and social life of the state.

**T**he Yellow River, trailing some 5,464 kilometres across north China, is the fifth largest river in the world. It cultivated the ancient Chinese civilization, as brilliant a civilization as existed in ancient Egypt, India and Babylon, and has won praise as "the mother river of the Chinese nation." However, due to a millennium of ecological destruction, the Yellow River is a dangerous, sandy river which frequently overflowed its banks. The dominant position of the Yellow River Valley in China's economy has also gradually been replaced by the Yangtze River Valley and the coastal areas. Since the founding of New China in 1949, the Yellow River has received the undi-

vided attention of the government which harnessed its resources and greatly lessened its potential for destruction. Currently, however, the Yellow River Valley area, though rich in natural resources, is still in a relatively backward state.

At the First Session of the Seventh National People's Congress in April 1988, the famous Chinese sociologist Fei Xiaotong, chairman of the China Democratic League, happened to meet Jia Zhijie, governor of Gansu Province in the upper reaches of the Yellow River. Naturally, they exchanged their views on the social and economic development of China's northwest areas and, during their talks, Jia suggested that the Democratic

League send a group of experts to help the northwestern provinces undertake a development plan.

At the same time, Feng Zhijun, vice-chairman of the Democratic League and a soft science expert, had a conversation with Li Diankui, mayor of Dongying, Shandong Province, on how best to develop the Yellow River Delta.

The two talks proved to be the prelude to the Democratic League's advice to the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party (CPC) and the State Council on developing the Yellow River's upper reaches and along the delta areas of the lower reaches. Before their informal discussions ended, the highest administrators of Gansu

Province, the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region and Qinghai Province (through all of which runs the upper reaches of the Yellow River), formally agreed to ask the Democratic League to organize the study and come up with an economic development plan for their areas. At the same time, leaders of Shandong Province consulted with Fei Xiaotong and Qian Weichang, vice-chairman of the Democratic League, on holding a symposium on development strategy for the Yellow River Delta.

The invitations by local governments made the leaders of the Democratic League aware of their role, primarily through their intellectual expertise, to provide comprehensive advice to the state. To this end, in May

1800s and early 1900s. It holds snowy mountains and prairie as well as deserts and gobi, where herds of cattle and flocks of sheep graze to the accompaniment of melodious pastoral songs. Although the government has contributed a great amount of financial aid, material resources and manpower to the area since 1949 and the living standard of many nationalities, such as Tibetan, the Hui, Mongolian and Han, has improved greatly, the economic level in the region is low compared with that in the east coastal areas.

After accepting the task of studying development on the upper reaches of the Yellow River from the Democratic League Central Committee, Feng Zhijun plunged himself into the work.

chemical industry and planning, began a 24-day inspection tour under Feng's leadership. With the support of local governments, the team travelled to the river's upper reaches, investigating not only the major cities but also the countryside and pastoral areas, especially Xihaigu, one of China's poorest areas. They inspected rural enterprises as well as medium and large state enterprises and raw material sites under development as well as still unexploited virgin land. In addition, the team held 24 talks respectively with representatives of local industrial, agricultural, commercial, academic, scientific and technological circles and government officials. Returning to Beijing, the experts compiled within only one week *An Analysis of Economic Development Policies in Gansu Province, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region and Qinghai Province*. About 100,000 words in length, the report covered such topics as natural geographical surveys, power, railways, enterprises, financial support for poor areas, the market situation, social development, intellectual mobility and the relationship between nationalities.

The report analysed the distribution of a variety of resources in the region. Energy is one resource examined in the report and China's success in developing hydroelectric power at the river's upper reaches is pointed out. So far, power stations at Longyangxia, Liujiaxia, Yanguoxia, Bapanxia and Qingtongxia have begun operation and, along with 15 other power stations under construction and planning, will bring the total installed capacity to some 12 million kw. Also, with total proven coal deposits of 197.8 billion tons, the two provinces and one autonomous region are recognized as China's second largest "coal sea." Oil deposits in the area are also considerable, some



FEI WAN  
Fei Xiaotong, chairman of the China Democratic League, leaves message for local students of Yugu Autonomous County, Gansu Province.

1988, the Democratic League set up a "Regional Development Planning Committee."

### Construction on the Upper Reaches

Most areas in the upper reaches of the Yellow River are as mysterious and backward as the virgin American West in the late

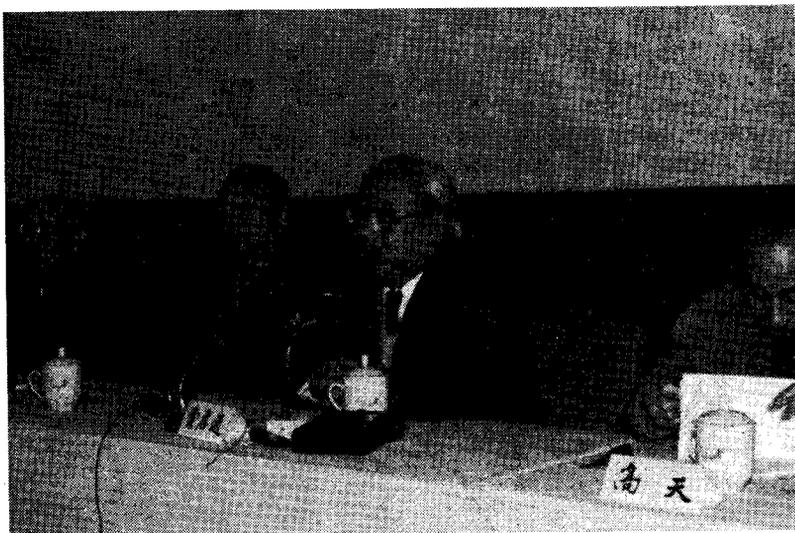
He invited a group of experts and scholars throughout China to Beijing to discuss the outline of the work with comrades of the planning commissions of Gansu, Ningxia and Qinghai. On May 16, 1988, the investigation team, composed of ten experts in agriculture, livestock breeding, water conservancy, electric power, metallurgy, geology, education,

430 million tons. In regard to mineral resources, the deposits of nickle, platinum, rareearth, sylvite, magnesium salt, lithium, bromine, asbestos, gypsum and aluminium rank first in China. All these endow the area with the unusual advantage to develop nonferrous metal, salt-chemical, petrochemical and building material industry. Regarding agriculture and animal husbandry, however, although the two provinces and the autonomous region are an important pastoral region and the Hetao area (located near the top of the Great Bend of the Yellow River in the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region and Ningxia) is known as the "granary on the Great Wall," the dry weather and shortage of water has seriously reduced harvest, so the problem of raising sufficient food to feed the local population has remained unresolved.

The report emphasizes that some 40 out of China's 55 Chinese minority nationalities inhabit more than 80 percent of the area. The harmonious relationship between nationalities is, therefore, extremely important. The report points out that the key to national problems lies in economic development.

If the state makes a reasonable adjustment to industrial distribution through a comprehensive economic development zone, and practises preferential policies in fund allocation, bank credit and managerial power within enterprises, the multi-national region will become a stable source of raw materials and a base of high energy-consuming industries as well as of meat and milk production.

Fei Xiaotong and Qian Weichang were satisfied with the work of the investigation team. But they wanted a more scientific and practical proposal. In July 1988, Fei and Qian attended the "Symposium on Constructing a



FEI WAN

Fei Xiaotong speaks at the Regional Planning and Consulting Service Conference in Xuzhou, Jiangsu Province.

Multi-National Economic Development Zone on the Upper Reaches of the Yellow River" held in Lanzhou, capital of Gansu Province. After the symposium, despite the intense heat of summer, the two men undertook an investigation of the river's upper reaches. On July 13, they submitted, on behalf of the Central Committee of the Democratic League, the *Proposal on Establishing a 'Multi-National Economic Development Zone on the Upper Reaches of the Yellow River* to the CPC Central Committee and the State Council.

From the very beginning, the *Proposal* makes clear its purpose and main theme: the west-east railway lines, with their freight volume the largest in China, have connected the river's upper reaches with the coastal areas. Turning the region into a base for the supply of raw materials and basic processed products to the east area is an important step for the development of the coastal areas. At present, conditions are ripe for establishing a multi-national economic development zone in the river's upper reaches and making it an experimental

zone for the whole northwest area.

The development zone envisioned in the the *Proposal* covers the 1,000-km-long river section between the Longyangxia and the Qingtongxia and includes two large hydro-electric power stations on the Yellow River's upper reaches and emphasizing economic activity along its banks. The zone encompasses Qinghai, Gansu, Ningxia and Inner Mongolia and covers 150,000 square kilometres with 10 million people, including 4.4 million of minority nationality, some 4.84 percent of China's total minority population. Given the local resources available and the problems which need to be resolved, the *Proposal* sets out a general policy of developing the area: After establishing hydro-electric power stations, develop high-energy-consuming raw material exploitation and processing industry, thus stimulating the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, and, in order to boost agricultural production and turn the area into a grain and sugar base, using the increased hydro-electric pow-

er to carry water to the desert and the arid loess plateau.

The *Proposal* was soon sent by the State Council to the State Planning Commission. On October 6, 1988, after the State Planning Commission approved it in principle, it was sent back to Premier Li Peng. He approved the plan and asked the State Planning Commission to work out a more detailed version with the departments concerned. The reply of the commission read: Developing the area will be a guide for the state's development planning and construction work and the principle for implementation of the government's overall economic strategy. The Commission also agreed to give preferential consideration to the area's construction programme, strengthen support for the area's agriculture and animal husbandry and arrange for the construction of commodity grain and livestock product bases while studying and drafting "the Eighth Five-Year (1991-95) Plan of National Economic and Social Development."

In October 1988, the United Front Work Department of the CPC Central Committee called together leaders of the Democratic League Central Committee, Gansu, Ningxia, Qinghai, Inner Mongolia, the State Planning Commission, the State Science and Technology Commission and the State Nationalities Affairs Commission to discuss implementation of the tentative plan. After a co-ordinating team for the development of the four provinces and autonomous regions was set up, the work began in a planned manner with emphasis on development of energy resources, transportation and raw materials.

Fei, who had paid a good deal of attention to the construction of "the Multi-National Economic Development Zone on the Upper Reaches of the Yellow River," proposed on May 16,



Fei Xiaotong meets with immigrants (left) in Gansu Province.

FEI WAN

1990 that the CPC Central Committee and the State Council give first priority to the development of agriculture and livestock breeding. The State Council responded favourably to Fei's idea in October and, by the end of 1990, the state had decided that "the Hexi (Gansu) Corridor" would be a new commercial grain base, receiving an annual investment of 5 million yuan.

### Developing the Yellow River Delta

The Yellow River Delta, the result of sand deposits left by the river, is China's "youngest" area. Still in the process of creation, the estuary of the Yellow River is making more than 2,000 hectares annually through its sand deposits.

Of China's three biggest rivers, the Yangtze River and the Pearl River deltas have been built into well-known economic zones with modern port cities like Shanghai and Guangzhou. The Yellow River Delta, however, with its weak economic base, has yet to be fully developed. In recent years, effective measures have

been taken to change the situation. Construction of China's second biggest oilfield—the Shengli Oilfield—was begun and such basic facilities as highways, bridges, electric power, telecommunications, airports and ports have taken initial shape. In 1983, moreover, the State Council gave permission for the city of Dongying to be founded on the delta.

The Yellow River Delta has a total area of 5,400 square kilometres (a figure which continues to increase as more sand is deposited), more than half a hectare per person (nationally, China has 0.0086 square kilometre per person), the highest in the coastal areas. Currently, only 42 percent of land is being utilized. The still undeveloped 400,000-hectares of land include 120,000 hectares of shoals (20,000 hectares of which can be used for aquaculture) and 324,000 hectares of alkaline land (160,000 hectares of which are grassland). The vast land resources, together with the mild climate and moderate rainfall, are sufficient for building grain, cotton, forest, fruit, animal husbandry and aquatic breeding in-

dustries as well as founding modern urban centres.

By the end of 1988, the Yellow River Delta had verified oil deposits of 3.2 billion tons and natural gas deposits of 22.9 billion cubic metres. The rich oil and gas resources portend a promising future for building energy and petrochemical industry bases.

The coastline of the Yellow River Delta stretches for 350 kilometres. The abundant freshwater food of the Yellow River have helped to turn the delta area into a rich source of fish, shrimp, crab and shellfish and making it known worldwide as a prawn cultivation site. Given its abundant seafood, it has the potential to become a major aquatic breeding area.

Such promise draws wide attention at home and abroad.

On June 28, 1988, Dongying hosted the "Symposium on the Economic, Technological and Social Development Strategy of the Yellow River Delta" proposed by the Democratic League Central Committee and the Shandong Provincial Party Committee. Professor Qian Weichang, vice-chairman of the De-

mocratic League and a well-known physicist, arrived at Dongying a month early and inspected the oilfields, saline-alkali land, the estuary and port sites. At the symposium, Qian stimulated the interest of the participants by raising the question of whether the Baku road or the Los Angeles road of oil and gas development should be followed. "The Baku road" referred to the short-term plan that, like the Baku Oilfield in the Soviet Union, exploits resources but ignores the development of new industries, the kind of development leads to dry oilfields and bleak cities. The "Los Angeles road" is of a longer term nature that, as is exemplified by the city of Los Angeles, emphasizes the development of a variety of industries and uses oil profits to strengthen urban centres, a development scheme which results in a prosperous city even after the well has gone dry. Qian thus emphasized the danger inherent in a one-track economic plan.

Qian further elaborated on the *Question of Developing the Yellow River Delta*, a joint proposal by Qian and Fei on behalf of the Democratic League Central

Committee that was submitted to the CPC Central Committee and the State Council on December 25, 1989. The *Proposal* analyzes the resources in the Yellow River Delta and points out that speeding up the development of the Yellow River Delta will bring many economic and strategic benefits. The authors suggest, however, the need to put into place substitute industries for petroleum in a timely manner. After receiving the *Proposal* approved by the State Council, the State Planning Commission instructed its National Land Comprehensive Development Department to organize an investigative study by the relevant units. On April 14, 1990, the State Planning Commission sent a copy of its *Report on the Question of the Yellow River Delta* to the Democratic League Central Committee. The *Report* says that the Yellow River Delta should simultaneously develop an energy industry centred around the petroleum industry, as well as a chemical industry, agriculture, aquatic products, animal husbandry and a processing industry. The State Planning Commission agreed with the need for the construction of energy and chemical industries, agriculture and basic facilities and announced the intention to include concrete plans in national or local "Eighth Five-Year Plan of the National Economical and Social Development" and the Ten-Year Programme on the premise that national strength permits.

According to Liu Yaochuan, director of the Agricultural Economy Department of the State Planning Commission, the state has invested more than 58 million yuan in the Yellow River Delta since 1989 when the area was designated an experimental area for grain and cotton development. The investment has produced evident benefits. On view of this result, the programme will continue during the "Eighth Five-Year Plan." ■

Workers at the Shengli Oilfield.

SHEI PANQI



## Model Cadre On Screen

Once an American sat among a group of Chinese young people who were discussing the present situation in China. One of the young men, driven by a sudden curiosity to hear this American's opinion of China, asked, "What do you think China needs now?" The American answered without the least hesitation, "China needs Jiao Yulu."

Jiao Yulu was a Party cadre in the 1960s and until recently his name was unknown to many of today's Chinese young people.

However, this American's

words proved to be very prophetic. Not long after, as thousands of Chinese saw the feature film *Jiao Yulu* recently released by the Ermei Film Studio and were moved to tears, Jiao Yulu again became a household hero, symbol of the great selfless quality of the Party cadres. People cried out together, "May there be more Jiao Yulus in the country."

In Henan Province, central China, there is a small county called Lankao. Lankao was a place of poverty and natural calamities. Dust storms, saline-alkali soil and floods plagued the

region. In difficult years, the farmers had no other choice but leave their homeland and make a living in other places. However, Lankao won nationwide fame in the 1960s, not for its poverty and hard life, but for Jiao Yulu, then Party secretary of the county. When Jiao fell seriously ill, thousands of farmers accompanied him to the hospital; when he died, thousands of people attended his funeral. Jiao had not done any earth-shaking thing, but he had shown the best quality of a party member: to serve the people heart and soul.

The film focuses on the last 15 months of Jiao's life when he served as the Party secretary of Lankao County. In December 1962, Lankao was again struck by famine. But the rest of the country, also suffering an economic crisis, was unable to offer sufficient help. Fearing difficult times ahead, many county leaders left Lankao for posts in other places. It was at this most difficult time that Jiao was appointed Party secretary of Lankao. At his inaugural meeting, his comrades in the county Party committee poured out endless complaints and grievances. Jiao said nothing but led them to the railway station to witness an appalling scene: the farmers, old and young, were crowded into overloaded trains in a snow storm to flee the famine.

The first thing Jiao did was to distribute relief food and materials to the farmers. To show his determination to live with the masses, Jiao moved his family from a richer county to Lankao and settled there. He made on-the-spot investigations and found methods to fight against the natural disasters. Although he suffered greatly from liver cancer, he devoted himself wholeheartedly to his work.

The film successfully creates the image of Jiao by detailed description of some of the most tri-

Jiao Yulu is confronted by a group of young beggars on his way to Lankao.



vial matters. An old industrious gardener who had been planting trees all his lifetime died from over-working. This so shocked Jiao that, in order to prevent such tragedies, he bought food grain at high prices for grass-root cadres who were doing the hardest work but living in the most difficult conditions. This was actually illegal because the state banned any form of private dealing in grain. Some people seized the opportunity to attack Jiao and reported his activities to Jiao's superiors. An investigation team headed by the prefecture administrator came to Lankao County to look into the matter. Jiao shouldered all the responsibility. After the investigation meeting, which ended at midnight, the investigators walked out of the room and into the courtyard where they were confronted by a group of over 100 farmers standing in the winter cold. The farmers had heard the news and, afraid that their leader might receive punishment, had walked all the way to the county capital to wait for the result. When the prefecture administrator asked them why they had come, they said unanimously, "We have come to plead innocence for Jiao." The governor was greatly moved and said, "Good! I am one of you."

Tung trees can stop wind and sand flow. Therefore, to plant as many tung trees as possible became a priority in order to free Lankao from the hardship of dust storms. However, a college graduate, Xiao Wei, who was an expert in this area, was prepared to leave Lankao because his fiancée was unwilling to join him because conditions there were too hard. One day Jiao went to see Xiao Wei, only to learn that the young man had already gone to the railway station to leave. Jiao rushed instantly to the station and caught up to Xiao Wei who was waiting for the train.



Jiao Yulu leads the people in a fight against the flood.



Jiao talks with a gardener on how to cultivate tung trees as wind breakers.

Jiao, holding Wei's hands, said, "Wei, I come to say goodbye to you." He handed Xiao Wei a small bag containing the sandy soil of Lankao County and said, "Life here is really too hard for you and you have suffered a lot. But I still hope that you can help us think of a way to control sand

after your arrival in your hometown. Wei boarded the train. As the train pulled away, Jiao looked in one window after another to locate Wei to take a last look at him. When he failed to see him, he felt rather disappointed. As he turned away, his eyes suddenly brightened--Wei

was standing on the platform, pressing the bag of sand against his chest.

Jiao Ziyun, Jiao's daughter, said after seeing the film, "Li Xuejian (the actor) has done an excellent job. His acting is natural and credible, and we easily accepted him as my father."

Li Xuejian is an actor at the Central Experimental Drama Troupe. Before Jiao Yulu, Li played a dozen leading roles in dramas, films and TV productions. Speaking of his role in this film, Li said, "I built the image of Jiao Yulu with my flesh and blood. I finished the film about one month ago, and have so far refused many directors who wanted me to play in their productions for the simple reason that I still can not pull myself out of Jiao's character. I have been an actor for more than ten years but Jiao Yulu is my most unforgettable role."

"The Jiao in the film is what we people saw in real life. This contributes to the film's great success," said Zhou Changan, one of the local cadres working in the county who saw the film. He added, "We are finally able to see Jiao again whom we have missed for more than two decades." The local people contributed to the shooting of the film in various ways. Du Chaoren, a farmer in Lankao County, donated his 1,000 yuan savings to the film shooting team, and Wang Qiu, a young man from Shandong Province, donated 500 yuan. Upon learning that this was a film about their former Party secretary, 1,200 farmers voluntarily played extras.

When asked whether it was outdated to eulogize the spirit of Jiao Yulu in the 1990s, Wang Jixing, director of the film said, "Jiao Yulu was an ordinary Party member and a servant of the people. Although he was a hero in the 1960s, his spirit still has far-reaching effects."

Wang Jixi is a graduate of the prestigious Beijing Cinema Academy and is now vice-director of the Ermei Film Studio. The shooting of the film shows his artistic courage and insight. The film had already become a household topic even before it was completed. On several premier shows, the cinema was filled to capacity. By February 9 this year, 420 film copies had been ordered by film distributing and releasing companies in provinces and cities, creating a record in the Chinese film history since the founding of the People's Republic of China. In order to enable the audience to see the film at an earlier date, workers at the Shandong Film Copy Developing Factory did not take holidays even for Spring Festival, one of the most important festivals in China.

Some critics suggested that the "Jiao Yulu Craze" was not simply a cultural phenomenon, but a reflection of people's expectations and feelings. On the surface, it revives the memory and respect of Jiao, but in a deeper sense, it is a condemnation of the corrupt officials who use their power for personal gains.

Reviewing China's film industry in 1990, Teng Jinxian, director of the Film Bureau, said, *Jiao Yulu* is one of the most successful films ever made.

by Hong Lanxing.

## News in Brief

- The China International Calligraphy and Painting Art Research Society was recently founded in Beijing. It is China's first special calligraphy and painting research society open to international artists. It serves as a centre for international calligraphers, artists and critics to hold artistic and social activities to establish friendship and organize cultural exchanges. It will

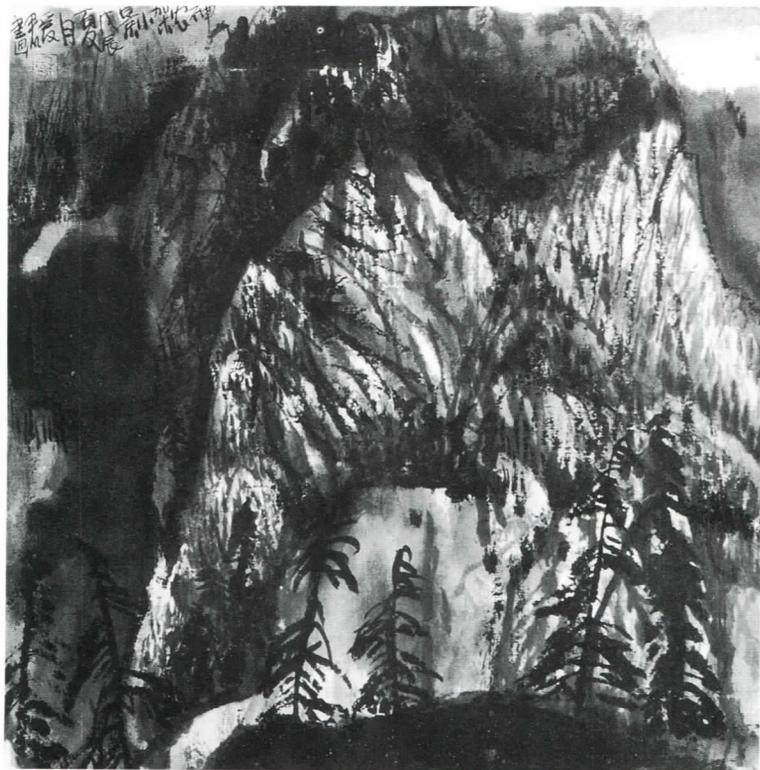
also contribute to the appreciation and development of China's artistic heritage and introduce Western arts. Through the society, the world will gain a better understanding of Chinese calligraphy and paintings. The society elected Yuan Xiaoyuan, a well-known art professor and member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the president, and He Haixia and Dong Shouping vice-presidents.

- The Environmental Literature Research Society under the China Environmental Science Research Association was recently founded in Beijing. Starting from the 1980s, China has listed environmental protection as one of its basic state policies which has greatly enhanced the development of environmental protection. However, many people still hold an indifferent attitude towards environmental protection. Chinese writers and artists have produced many literary works and films to publicize the importance of environmental protection. The main task of the society is to promote the further production of environmental literature. More than 200 writers and artists in Beijing were present at the founding ceremony in Beijing.

- The International Chinese Painting Exhibition & Contest sponsored by the China Oriental Culture Research Society will be held in the first half of this year.

Artists both at home and abroad are invited to enter for the contest. Award-winning works will be placed on display together with the works of 150 established Chinese painters. The works will also be exhibited in other big cities of the country and abroad.

The contest is now open for entrants and has an application deadline of June 1. The award and opening ceremony for the exhibition will be held in mid-August.



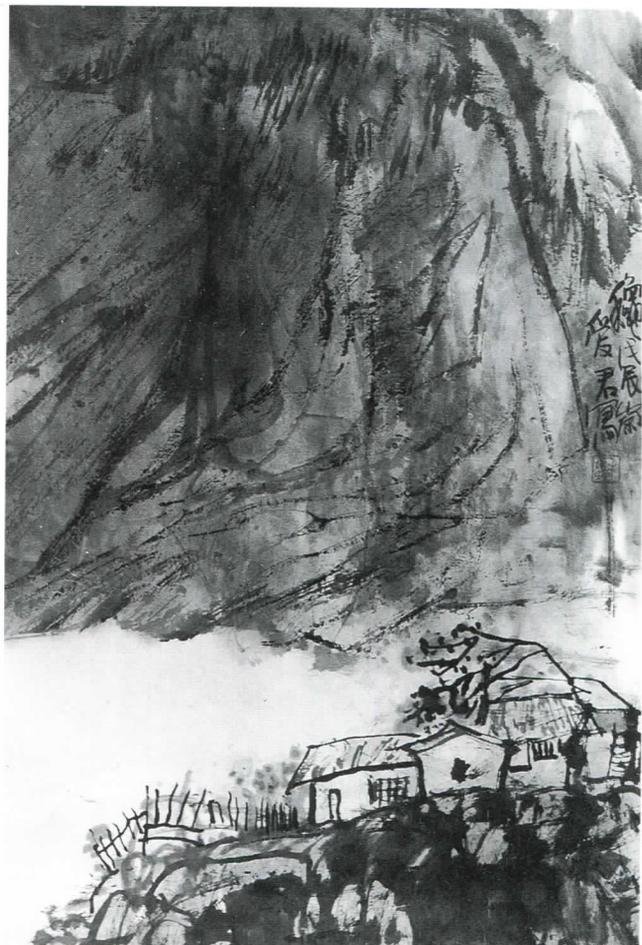
The Landscape of Shennongjia.

## Chinese Paintings By He Aijun

He Aijun, born in Beijing in 1956, is an artist on the staff of the Jingxi Hotel in Beijing.



A Boat by the Lakeside.

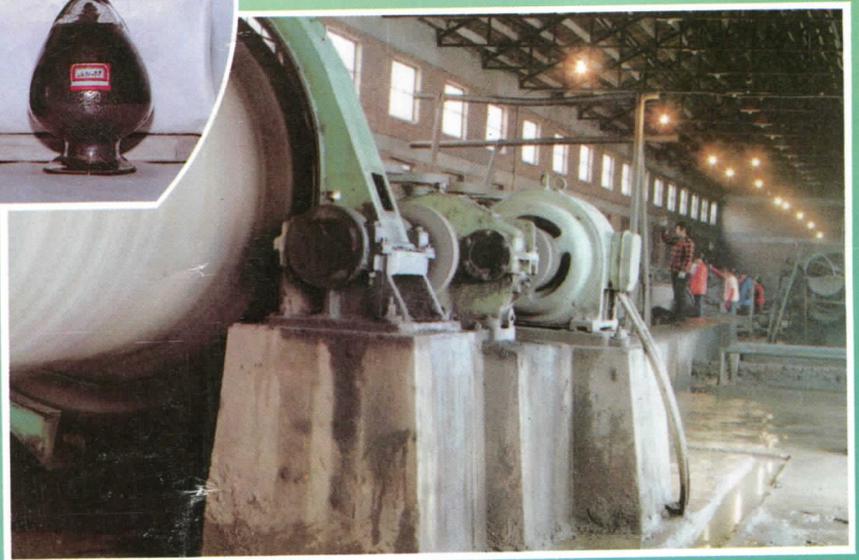


Village at the Foot of a Mountain.

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