人民中国
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Pictorial: China in 1949

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TO OUR READERS

This is a journal dedicated to cementing unity and friendship between the Chinese people and the progressive people of all lands and to the cause of the lasting peace and people's democracy. Through its pages, we intend to inform our readers, twice a month, of the thought and life of China that has freed herself from the clutches of the menaces of domestic reactionaries and the yoke of foreign imperialists—this is the people's China.

Without the overwhelming victories of the Chinese people during the eventful year of 1949, the appearance of this journal would not have been possible. Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, the Chinese people are now victoriously bringing to a close this arduous and costly revolutionary struggle which they have waged for more than two decades. Out of the debris of the degenerate regime of the Kuomintang, a People's Republic has emerged. For the first time in history, the Chinese people have stood up. They now have the possibility not only of freely expressing themselves at home, but also of freely communicating with friends abroad.

From now on, we shall do our utmost to inform our readers about the political, economic and cultural activities of this country in order that the friends of new China may follow the progress being made in the gigantic work of national construction.

Since the Chinese people have aligned themselves with the world camp fighting for the lasting peace and people's democracy, this journal will also devote itself to the sacred task of defending, vigilantly and steadfastly, the cause of world peace. It is the unswerving will of the Chinese people to guard this peace by every means within their power. The great solidarity of the peace-loving people must be strengthened.

The readers we have in mind are the whole progressive mankind, i.e., the ordinary people of all lands, irrespective of nationality, race, colour and belief. They are infinitely good internationalists for they know from their own experiences that all labouring people form one big family, bound together by their common struggle and common aspirations.

We believe that this journal can make a useful contribution to the consolidation of unity between the Chinese people and the people of the great U.S.S.R. and of our fellow People's Democracies, from whom we have so much to learn since they have pioneered the road to Socialism before us.

We believe that this journal can make a useful contribution to the strengthening of the friendly ties between the Chinese people and the progressive, open-minded people of the capitalist countries, whose struggle is just as our struggle is theirs.

We believe that this journal can make a useful contribution to the struggles of our fellow Asians, who are still fighting for their national liberation by casting off the chains of feudalism and imperialism as we have done. Since we have only just emerged from the prolonged darkness of feudal and colonial oppression, it is only natural that we feel a particularly warm sympathy for them in their present struggles and wish to extend them our staunch support during their ordeals ahead.

In short, this journal is intended as a forum of truth and a clearing house of actual revolutionary experiences.

Our Chinese People's Republic is still young. Therefore, the multitude of problems now confronting our people cannot be solved overnight. We are bound to encounter difficulties, and when we do so, this journal shall not hesitate to state them honestly so that others may profit by our experiences.

Thus we shall exert all our efforts to satisfy the world-wide demand for information about the realities of the new China, the people's China. In these pages, our readers may follow, step by step, the progress of the Chinese people as they march steadily forward to consolidate their nation's independence, democracy, peace, unity, strength and prosperity.
Stalin—Friend of the Chinese People

MAO TSE-TUNG

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was written by Chairman Mao ten years ago in Yenan. Apart from its historical value as an important document in the history of Sino-Soviet friendship, we print it here to remind the world that this great friendship of the two great nations is by no means recent growth. This message, although written ten years ago, conveys the same love and respect for the leader of the laboring people of the world which the Chinese people are expressing today. This friendship has been tested both by time and by international storm and stress — it has stood the test well.

December 21 this year is the 60th birthday of Comrade Stalin. It may be safely assumed that all revolutionary people of the world over who are aware of this will celebrate this event with warmth and enthusiasm.

To celebrate the birthday of Stalin does not mean to perform a seasonal ceremony. It means to uphold him and his work; to uphold the victory of Socialism; to uphold the direction he has pointed out to mankind; and to uphold our dearest friend. This is because the majority of mankind are suffering tribulations, and only Stalin’s guidance with Stalin’s help can we obtain relief from our calamities. We, the people of China, are living during a most painful period of history in which we are most in need of help.

It is said in the Book of Odes, “When the birds coo, they are seeking friendship.” That is exactly the predicament we are in.

But who are our friends? Some so-called “friends” pose as our friends, and there are people in our midst who accept them as such without much thought. But those friends are of the type of Li Lin-fu, the Tang Dynasty premier who was known as a man with a mouth as sweet as honey, and a heart as evil as a sword. These “friends” of ours are of exactly the same kind. Who are they? They are a section of the imperialists who go through the motions of being sympathetic to China.

There are other kinds of friends whose sympathy for us is genuine and who treat us like brothers. Who are they? The people of the Soviet Union together with Stalin.

No foreign country has relinquished its prerogatives in China except the Soviet Union.

During the Northern Expedition of 1927, the imperialists were all against us. The Soviet Union alone helped us.

Since the outbreak of the war of aggression against Japan, no imperialist nation has rendered any genuine aid to us. The Soviet Union alone has been helping us with manpower, material and funds.

Is this not clear?

True help for the liberation of China and the Chinese people can come only from the Socialist country, the Socialist leader, the Socialist people; from Socialist thinkers, statesmen and laborers. Without their help, we cannot achieve our victory in our struggle.

Stalin is the faithful friend of the Chinese people’s struggle for liberation. The love and respect which the Chinese people hold for Stalin and their friendship for the Soviet Union are entirely sincere. Any attempt to estrange us by rumors or slander will ultimately meet with failure.

Long Live Comrade Stalin!

Kuo Mo-Jo

Great Stalin, beloved steel, eternal sun!
Because humanity has you,
Marxism-Leninism can exert its might today.

Great Stalin, beloved steel, eternal sun!
Because humanity has you,
The proletariat can display its strength today.

Great Stalin, beloved steel, eternal sun!
The work of liberation can extend its glory today.

It is you who lead us to the open sea of world Communism;
It is you who instruct the West not to forget the East;
It is you who unite us as a force unparalleled in history.

The unity and progress of the New Democracies of Europe and Asia advance;
And the brilliance of the People’s Republic of China shines forth.

The history of mankind has started a new chapter;
The order of nature too will follow the path of revolution;
The name of Stalin will forever be the sun of humanity.

Long live great Stalin! Long live beloved steel!
On the Role of the National Bourgeoisie in the Chinese Revolution

Yu Hua

As it is well-known, the political line of the Chinese Communist Party in the present people's democratic revolution of China has been based on a people's democratic united front composed of the Chinese working class, peasants, petty bourgeoisie, national bourgeoisie and other patriotic democratic elements, based on the alliance of workers and peasants and led by the working class.

We are going to discuss in this article:
First, why is the national bourgeoisie at the present stage to be united with, but not to be exterminated, by the Chinese working class?
And second, what is the policy being adopted by the Chinese working class in dealing with the national bourgeoisie, and on what basis is this policy formulated?

The Bourgeoisie in Colonial Countries

As China was a semi-feudal and semi-colonial country, long under the yoke of imperialism, her revolution could not but take up the fight against imperialism as one of its main tasks. This characteristic determined the series of strategies and tactics of the Chinese revolution.

In his report on the national and colonial questions at the Second Congress of the Communist International, Lenin emphasized the paramount importance of making “the distinction between oppressed nations and oppressing nations”. He believed that in this lay the fundamental difference between the Communist International on the one hand and the Second International and bourgeois democracy on the other. Viewed from this angle, Lenin pointed out: “The Communist International must enter into a temporary alliance with bourgeois democracy in colonial and backward countries, but must not merge with it, and must unconditionally preserve the independence of the proletarian movement even in its most rudimentary form.” (Lenin: Preliminary Draft of Thesis on the National and Colonial Questions)

Stalin has developed this brilliant theory of Lenin's on the peculiarities of the revolution in colonial and semi-colonial countries. He has clearly pointed out the double task of opposing feudalism and opposing imperialism in the revolutionary movement of the Chinese people, with emphasis on “the sharpening of struggle against imperialism”. (Stalin: Chinese Revolution and Tasks of the Communist International) He has thus concluded that an alliance with the national bourgeoisie was permissible under certain conditions.

In unifying the universal truth of Marxism-Leninism with the actual practice of the Chinese revolution, Comrade Mao Tse-tung has succeeded in concretely applying the theory advanced by Lenin and Stalin regarding the role played by the national bourgeoisie in the revolution of colonial and semi-colonial countries.

The Bureaucratic Bourgeoisie and the National Bourgeoisie

Since the component groups of the Chinese bourgeoisie have different relationships with imperialism and feudalism, they should not be treated as a homogeneous mass, but should be "differentiated from each other. There are two main groups within the Chinese bourgeoisie, namely, the big bourgeoisie and the national bourgeoisie. The economic interests of these two groups are in conflict with one another. They therefore have played different roles in the Chinese people's democratic revolution.

The distinction between the big bourgeoisie and the national bourgeoisie in China was made clear by Comrade Mao Tse-tung, when he wrote in 1939: "The bourgeoisie is divided into two different groups. One is the big bourgeoisie which is comprador in nature, and the other is the national bourgeoisie."
The bourgeoisie has never been a force of the Chinese revolution, but remains its enemy. Since the national bourgeoisie is oppressed by imperialism and restricted by the remaining feudal elements, it clashes with imperialism and the remaining feudal elements. In this sense, it is a part of the revolutionary forces. During the history of the Chinese revolution, they have shown their vigour in the struggle against imperialism and the government dominated by bureaucrats and warlords. (Mao Tse-tung: The Chinese Revolution and the Communist Party of China)

Who are the Chinese big bourgeoisie?

. . . The Four Big Families — Chiang, Soong, Kung and Chen — during their 20 years in power have amassed enormous capital worth 10 to 20 billion American dollars and have monopolized the economic life-lines of the entire country. This monopoly capitalism, merging with state power, becomes state-monopoly capitalism. Monopoly capitalism, intimately merged with foreign imperialism and the domestic landlord class and old-type rich peasants, becomes compradore, feudal, state-monopoly capitalism. This is the economic foundation of Chiang Kai-shek's reactionary regime. This state-monopoly capitalism not only oppresses workers and peasants, but also oppresses the petty bourgeoisie and injures the middle bourgeoisie (i.e., the national bourgeoisie—Y.H.). This state-monopoly capitalism reached its highest peak during the anti-Japanese war and after the Japanese surrender. It prepared adequate material conditions for the new democratic revolution. This capital is popularly called bureaucratic capital in China. This bourgeoisie is called bureaucratic bourgeoisie, i.e., China's big bourgeoisie. Apart from doing away with the special privileges of imperialism in China, the object of the new democratic revolution within the country is to eliminate the exploitation and oppression of the landlord class and the bureaucratic bourgeoisie (the big bourgeoisie). . . . " (Mao Tse-tung: Present Situation and Our Task)

It should be emphasized that without the fulfillment of the task of opposing bureaucratic capitalism, and without the carrying out of its accompanying concrete program for the confiscation of the property of the big bourgeoisie by the people's state, the content of the Chinese people's democratic revolution could not be considered complete.

The process by which this unique bureaucratic capitalism was expanding under the reactionary KMT regime was the same process by which the Chinese national bourgeoisie was being oppressed and its private enterprises crippled. The bureaucratic capitalists, as represented by the Four Big Families of Chiang, Soong, Kung and Chen, never developed any industry of their own. They appropriated the property of the labouring people and in part of the national bourgeoisie, to swell up their ill-gotten capital, chiefly by means of their traitorous collaboration with foreign imperialists, particularly with American imperialists, by means of the state, in the guise of its state capital, under their control, especially their extensive network of financial organizations, and also by means of an openly predatory policy. During the war against Japanese aggression, the KMT bureaucratic capitalist bloc accelerated this process of plundering and concentration of capital by instituting various wartime economic controls and by permitting a runaway inflation. After the Japanese surrender, this bloc, in the name of "taking over" the properties of the Japanese and their puppet, private- ly pocketed the assets which originally and rightfully belonged to the Chinese people. In this way, the Japanese imperialist aggressors and their lackeys served no more than as a tool in the conversion of the wealth of the Chinese people, including that of the national bourgeoisie, into the private property of the bureaucratic capitalists, which means, in the end, into the private property of the American imperialists. It is, therefore, nothing strange that the more the bureaucratic capitalists expanded, the more the national bourgeoisie contracted. Thus, the bureaucratic capitalists became the big bourgeoisie, and the national bourgeoisie assumed the position of the middle bourgeois. The former were oppressors and exploiters of the Chinese people, and the latter, while exploiting the Chinese working class, were themselves ruthlessly oppressed by imperialism and its agents, the big bourgeoisie.

Viewed from all these economic factors, it is not difficult to understand the changes in political attitude of the Chinese national bourgeoisie at various historical stages. Although during the period after 1919 and before the Incident of 1931, it cooperated with the big land-owning class and the big bourgeoisie in opposing the revolution, nevertheless, it has never been in power. That is not all. After the Mukden Incident, which heralded the Japanese imperialists' all-out invasion of China, certain representatives of the national bourgeoisie, prodded by the masses, took an active part in the anti-imperialist movement, at that time directed against the Japanese imperialism. This movement was banned by the Kuomintang which was then in power. After the outbreak of the anti-Japanese war, owing to the intensification of various reactionary political and economic measures, certain representatives of this class sympathized with and even supported, in varying degree, the democratic movement in China. After the Japanese surrender, the people throughout China all yearned for peace and opposed the impending clash with the KMT government, headed by Chiang Kai-shek, to convene the "Political Consultative Conference" proposed by the Chinese Communist Party. The representatives of the Chinese national bourgeoisie participated in this Conference which had as its aim the striving for democracy and peace at home, and their attitude on the whole was sympathetic towards the progressive demands of the Chinese people. Following the abortive peace parley, a full-scale civil war was launched by the KMT reactionaries, then basic victory was won by the Chinese people in the revolutionary war. During this series of vital changes, although the national bourgeoisie displayed at times a wavering and wait-and-see attitude, yet it had not surrendered to the KMT reactionaries. What was won was in line with the changes in situation, its representatives at last took part in the recently-held People's Political Consultative Conference which symbolized the great revolutionary unity of the Chinese people.

Dual Nature of the National Bourgeoisie

As stated above, because there are certain contradictions between the Chinese national bourgeoisie on the one hand and foreign imperialism and their Chinese bureaucratic agents on the other, consequently it is either sympathetic towards or remains neutral in the Chinese people's democratic revolution — this is one aspect of its nature. But also because there are contradictions between the Chinese national bourgeoisie on the one hand and the working class and the peasantry on the other, consequently it has a dual nature in the Chinese people's democratic revolution.

"From this dual nature of the national bourgeoisie, we can conclude that at a certain period and under certain circumstances, it can take part in revolutions against imperialism, bureaucratic capitalism and warlordism, and it can become a part of the revolutionary forces. But at other times, it may serve the big bourgeoisie by assisting the counter-revolutionary forces." (Mao Tse-tung: The Chinese Revolution and the Communist Party of China)

It is exactly because of this fact that struggle must necessarily be conducted in an appropriate manner against the national bourgeoisie, while uniting with it.

In December, 1947, on the eve of the victory of the Chinese people's revolution, Comrade Mao Tse-tung pointed out:

"In areas ruled by Chiang Kai-shek, there is a section of the upper petty bourgeoisie and the middle bourgeoisie (i.e. the national bourgeoisie—Y.H.) who, though small in number, have reactionary political tendencies — these are the rightist elements among these classes. They disseminate illusions about American imperialism and
The National Bourgeoisie and Economic Reconstruction

The national bourgeoisie is called upon to play its part in the people’s democratic revolution. This is because the people’s democratic revolution in China is directed against imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism, while the national bourgeoisie might and did participate in the movement against imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism. This is not all.

China is a very backward country in so far as modern industry is concerned. The imperialist countries will continue to be hostile even after complete victory has been won in the Chinese revolution. Therefore it becomes necessary to draw the national bourgeoisie into the common struggle to resist imperialist oppression and to improve China’s backward economic status.

However, this policy of integrating the national bourgeoisie into the common effort to improve the economic position of China does not at all mean the unlimited expansion of private capital which would lead China to develop in the direction of capitalism. In the first place, having a state-owned economy of a socialist nature occupying a predominant position in China’s modern industry makes it impossible for the private capital of the bourgeoisie to lead China in the direction of capitalism. In the second place, the people’s government adopts the policy of encouraging and assisting “the active operation of all private economic enterprises beneficial to the national welfare and the people’s livelihood.” (Article 30 of the Common Program) The new government also encourages their development “in the direction of state capitalism in such ways as processing for state-owned enterprises and exploiting state-owned resources in the form of concessions.” (Article 31 of the Common Program) This means that the existence of the private capital of the national bourgeoisie and its development under proper control of a state-led by the Chinese working class will in reality serve to promote socialism instead of capitalism in China.

Of course, this is not to say that there exist no contradictions, and consequently no struggle, between the state-owned economy of a socialist nature and the private-operated economy of a capitalist nature. No contradictions do exist, and so struggle is inevitable, and it will be further sharpened.

But since tremendous changes have already taken place in the relative strength of the various classes in China, and since the powerful state apparatus is now in the hands of the people and since the growing state-owned economy having a socialist nature together with the co-operative economy having a semi-socialist nature will become the main components of China’s economy, this kind of contradictions and struggles need not be solved by further bloodshed but can be solved, to a considerable extent, by means of education and reform.

The United Front In Literature And Art

Kuo Mo-jo
Chairman of All-China Association of Writers and Artists

Present-day Chinese writers frequently use the phrase the ‘new literature and art created since the May Fourth Movement’. In what way is the literature and art of the last thirty years new? How exactly does its nature differ from that of the old?

For quite a lengthy period, our writers and artists have been either in the dark or had only a vague notion about this. The question received a truly scientific explanation only after the publication of Chairman Mao Tse-tung’s “On New Democracy.” In that great work, Chairman Mao points out that the nature of the Chinese revolution, at the present stage, is that of new democracy. He summarizes the characteristics of the democratic revolution in a nutshell, as the “anti-imperialist and anti-feudal revolution of the masses of the people led by the proletariat”...

The foregoing characteristics of the Chinese revolution thus determine the nature of the new culture, the new literature and art of China. In other words, the new culture created since the May Fourth Movement is no longer the obsolete culture of the old democracy, but has become the new culture of new democracy; it is anti-imperialist and anti-feudal; it belongs to the masses of the people, led by the proletariat; similarly, the literature and art created since the May Fourth Movement has ceased to be the obsolete literature and art of the old democracy, but has become the new literature and art of the new democracy, anti-imperialist and anti-feudal, a literature and art of the masses of the people, led by the proletariat. This is the ‘new’ in the ‘new literature and art created since the May Fourth Movement’ and this is how it differs from the old in nature.

The anti-imperialist and anti-feudal task of the Chinese revolution has been predetermined by the nature of Chinese society during the past hundred odd years. Since the Opium War, all political, cultural, literary and artistic movements have been in different degrees anti-imperialist and anti-feudal. Therefore among the characteristics of the new democracy as outlined by Chairman Mao, i.e., the characteristics of being ‘anti-imperialist and anti-feudal, of the masses of the people, led by the proletariat’, the last named, led by the proletariat, is the most fundamental. Without the leadership of the most revolutionary class, the proletariat, and without the most scientific proletarian thought, it would be impossible to prescribe the correct directions and policies of the revolution. Without these things it would also be impossible fully to develop the strength of the masses of the people, or to gain victory for the Chinese revolution.

This is so not only in political revolution, but also in cultural, literary and artistic revolutions. Over and over again this fundamental truth has been proven by the thirty-year history of China. The great victories which have been won to-day by the Chinese people in political, cultural, literary and artistic revolutions are inseparable from the leadership of the Communist Party of China and from the teaching of Mao Tse-tung. These revolutions which have taken place since the May Fourth Movement have remained more persistent, thorough and uncompromising than any others in Chinese history because of the leadership of the proletariat.

It was the imperialist and feudal oppression of the masses of the Chinese people that caused them to take part in the new democratic revolution. Hence, how to organize the broad masses of the people into an exten-
I have seen the new China

Vicente Lombardo Toledano

Vice-President, World Federation of Trade Unions

I came to China with the eager desire of seeing with my own eyes the tremendous victory of its great people, which culminated in the creation of the People's Republic of China. Naturally I was longing to meet its leaders, to observe the attitude of the working people, of the industrial workers and peasants, of the intellectuals and youths, confronted with the gigantic task of building a new China, strong, prosperous, independent and revolutionary.

I have seen how a long and dark past of exploitation of the common man, of ignorance, of moral slavery and sadness is dying out; and how a new world, full of energy, of creative spirit, of social justice, of economic progress, of popular education, and high political conscience, is being born here.

I have seen the land reform spreading through this immense country, digging the foundation for the liberation of the great majority of the people. When the living standard of the population is raised, industry will progress steadily, and in this way China is going to shed forever its economic backwardness and poverty.

The struggle against landlordism in China is bound to have considerable repercussions not only in Asia but also in Latin America, where our nations still have a semi-feudal structure that dates many centuries back.

I have seen the Chinese people enjoying full freedom for the first time in their history; I have seen them making use, with great efficiency and joy, of their political rights.

The People's Republic of China is a true and genuine democracy; the people's dictatorship against the oppressors is the true and direct intervention of the people in the government, in the organizations, and in the progress of the country.

I have seen how this people is defending the sovereignty of its motherland, how it is determined to recover China for itself and to expel forever the disturbing and nefarious influence of foreign imperialism.

I have seen how the new China feels that it is linked to the other democratic countries, to the U.S.S.R., to the People's Democracies of Europe, to the workers and all progressive forces throughout the world.

I have seen how the people's democracy in China, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, is but a bridge for reaching a Socialist state and the true emancipation of mankind.

And I have met the leader of this brilliant page of human history, Comrade Mao Tse-tung. No one who sees him can help feeling his extraordinary human qualities and the depth of his brilliant mind, the mind of a Marxist theoretician, of a genial strategist, of a real leader, devoted body and soul to his people's revolution — qualities that have already placed him side by side with Stalin, the leader of the world proletariat, in the vanguard of the peoples of the whole world.

In 1935, I popularized the Soviet Union among the large masses of my people, for only a minority of them then knew about it. Now it will be my privilege to tell the Mexican people and the other people of Latin America about New China.

I brought the Chinese people a message of gratitude and admiration from 5,600,000 working people represented in the C.T.A.L.

Now I am taking back a message from the workers and the people of China — the message of their example.
The Map:

One of the commonest ways of following events in China is by asking: Where has the PLA got to? Ever since the autumn of 1948, it has been advancing faster than news could keep pace. As this journal goes to press, the whole of Central, South and Southwest China are cleared of the enemy except Tibet. The flag of the Chinese People's Republic has been proudly planted in Chennan-kwan, Kwangsi, facing the French-controlled Indo-China. The large anti-British campaign launched by General Lin Piao and his Fourth Field Army on Nov. 6 was victorious—concluded by the middle of December with the destruction of Pai Chung-hsi's forces.

On Dec. 9, the KMT Governor of Yunnan and the KMT Commanders of Szechuan and Sikang renounced their relations with the Kuomintang and accepted the leadership of the Central People's Government.

The Intrigue:

Although Chiang Kai-shek moved with his "capital" to Taishan on Dec. 8, his intrigue against the country did not end there. The widely reported agreement between the KMT warlords and the French imperialists in which the latter undertook to shelter the remnants of Chiang's defeated troops, turned out to be not without foundation. As has been bluntly admitted by Lt.-General Marcel Allaisansel, French Military Governor in Tientsin on Dec. 22, according to a Hanoi despatch of the United Press, 23,000 KMT troops had "marched across the border in orderly fashion, beginning on Dec. 12," and the march was described as a "mass movement". Not content with offering a haven to the enemy of the Chinese people, the French imperialists went out of their way to "protect" their KMT collaborators by infringing upon China's aereal sovereignty—a grave offence which Premier Chou En-lai, in his capacity as the Minister of Foreign Affairs, has seriously protested.

Economic Front:

Along with the military advance goes the progress in communications. When Wan Hsia, an inland river port in east Szechuan, was liberated on Dec. 11, through traffic could be resumed on the Yangtze, the main artery of China's water transportation. Two boats belonging to Min Sheng Company sailed down from Chungking via Hankow to Shanghai, loaded with pigs, bristles and Tung oil.

By Dec. 13, all rail traffic in Hunan had been restored, which meant that the province had restored rail connections with Kiangsi, Kwangtung and Kwangsi.

The National Revenue Administration Conference, which opened in Peking late in December, adjourned on Dec. 13 after laying down a detailed plan for a fair and efficient system of taxation.

Economists, landowners and civic leaders throughout the country continued to express their approval of the 1949 Budget and acclaimed the issuance of the 200,000,000 unit Victory Bond.

On Dec. 19, the Government Administrative Council issued a directive calling upon the country to combat flood with concerted efforts and to develop agricultural by-products and by-occupations as a means to compensate losses caused by flood.

Solidarity:

The Conference of Women of Asia held from Dec. 10 to 16 in Peking was another forceful demonstration of the unity of the world peace movement which had earlier been illustrated by the Asian and Australasian Trade Union Conference.

On Dec. 11, the 2nd All Circles Representative Conference for Shanghai, with 657 delegates attending, came to a successful close after five days of thorough discussion on problems concerning that metropolis. A similar conference for Nanking adjourned the following day. It is by means of such conferences, attended by representatives of all strata of the community, that the People's Government keeps in close touch with the sentiments and desires of the people.

The National Shop Assistants Trade Union Conference opened in Peking on Dec. 13, with delegates representing 15 cities including Peking, Tientsin, Nanking, Mukden, Harbin and Dalien. The aim of this conference was to further consolidate their organization and implement the policy of collective-bargaining as proclaimed by the All-China Federation of Labour early in November.

On Dec. 23, the National Education Conference opened in the capital under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Education. It was attended by 23 representatives from 12 districts covering the whole of China.

There is no doubt that the highlight of the month was the nationwide celebration of Marshal Stalin's 70th birthday and the historic visit of Chairman Mao Tse-tung to Moscow. Nothing strengthens the Chinese people's confidence and hope more than the solidarity between their country and the Soviet Union.
A Nation Is Born

On the political front a preparatory committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference was inaugurated on June 15. On September 21, the Chinese People's PCC was convened, which, representing the entire nation, adopted the Common Program, the Organic Law of the Central People's Government and the Organic Law of the Chinese People's PCC, and elected Mao Tse-tung as Chairman of the Central People's Government.

Prompt recognition was extended to the new-born Republic by the U.S.S.R. and the People's Democracies in the West and East.

Above: The Chinese People's PCC unanimously adopts the fundamental statutes of the People's Republic.

Right: A peasant delegate to the Chinese People's PCC casting her ballot during the election of the Central People's Gov't Council.

In Peking, a mammoth rally of 300,000 celebrates the birth of the People's Republic on October 1.

Chairman Mao opens the 1st Plenary Session of the Chinese People's PCC.

Chairman Mao proclaims, on October 1, the founding of the People's Republic of China. Right: The national flag rises for the first time amidst popular rejoicing.

Men of the PLA marching past the review stand at the October 1 celebration.

Soviet Ambassador N. V. Roashchin presenting credentials to Chairman Mao. On the left stands Premier Chou En-lai, concurrently Foreign Minister.
Struggle for World Peace

During the past three months, three conferences of international importance were held in Peking. They were: the China Conference for Defending World Peace, the Trade Union Conference of Asia and Australasia, Countries and the Asian Women’s Conference.

1949 – THE YEAR OF VICTORY
Liu Tsun-chi

1949 wound up China’s long past of sufferings. It also wrote the first page of an entirely new history of the Chinese nation.

The days are gone when the Chinese people were trampled like ants under the heels of imperialist invaders. The days are gone when the students and hunger-stricken masses were mowed down on the streets by U.S.-made carbines. The days are gone when hundreds of thousands of workers, peasants and intellectuals were imprisoned and beaten in concentration camps.

Gone, forever gone, are those days of darkness.

Under the leadership of the great Mao Tse-tung, and of the Chinese Communist Party, one quarter of mankind have stood up. They have wrested into their own hands the power to shape their future.

The great victory of the Chinese people was achieved in a year when post-war international reaction, led by the American imperialists, had reached its high tide. By throwing off the shackles of foreign domination that had held them in bondage for more than a century, the Chinese people have defeated the American imperialists’ plan for turning Asia, especially China, into a permanent colony and a large war base against the U.S.S.R. and all the peace-loving nations of the world. As a result of the birth of the People’s Republic of China, the strength of the international forces of peace and democracy has been immeasurably increased.

It was in this decisive year that the heroic People’s Liberation Army put an end to the last and most tyrannical dynasty in China’s history, the Kuomintang regime sustained by American imperialism. With the annihilation of 3 million Chiang Kai-shek’s troops during the course of the past twelve months, virtually all organized enemy armed resistance has been stamped out on the China mainland.

Twelve months ago, on New Year’s Day, 1949, the PLA was still at the ice-bound threshold of Peking. Today its victorious banners are floating proudly in the sub-tropical breezes of South Sea shores. After years of strategy, of imposing strategy, with a series of well-timed blows, had knocked out the remaining strongholds of reaction in South, West and Southwest, the whole of China was liberated except for Taiwan, Tibet and several coastal cities on Hainan.

In fact, ever since the Battle of Huai-Hai, which ended early in January, 1949, with the annihilation of 600,000 KMT troops, the War of Liberation has been, in tempo and strategy, purely a mop-up campaign. The grand Yangtze crossing, the liberation of Nanking on April 23 and of Shanghai on May 26 amounted to a coup de grace for the prostrate empire of the Big Four Families. Not since then has the reaction been able to form any real defense line. The reactionary forces crumbled before the advancing PLA like a house of cards. Uprisings of the KMT armies led by their commanders, notably Cheng Chien and Chen Ming-juin in Hunan, Teng Chi-wei in Szechwan, Tung Hsii-yu in Sinkiang, Lu Han in Yunnan and Liu Wen-hui in Sianking, accelerated the downfall of the Chiang Kai-shek regime.

Today the People’s Central Government administers a vast territory covering nearly ten million square kilometers. Never before in Chinese history has so much of China been under one unified administration. Not even at the apex of its power did Chiang Kai-shek exert real control over the Northeast, Sinkiang and the Northwestern provinces.

The unification of the Chinese nation was at long last achieved in 1949. This could only have been brought about through the sweeping victory of the People’s Liberation Army under the correct leadership of the Marxist-Leninist Party of Mao Tse-tung, with the support of the broad masses of the people.

In order to consolidate this victory, to carry the revolutionary war to the end, to suppress the signs of counter-revolution within the country and to build a free and prosperous country, the Chinese people had to set up their own state power—the people’s democratic dictatorship. As it was not yet possible to convene a national congress while the war was still on, the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference was convened in September, 1949, to create the People’s Republic of China. The 662 delegates at the Chinese People’s PCC, who elected the Central People’s Government Council, represented all the democratic political parties and groups, the national organizations of workers, peasants, youth, women and cultural workers, as well as national minorities, progressive elements among the national bourgeoisie, the overseas Chinese and religious groups. Only a government with such mass representation could have the broad popular basis necessary for leading national reconstruction throughout the whole country.

The solid mass support behind the Central People’s Government headed by Chairman Mao Tse-tung was graphically demonstrated on October 1, 1949. On this historic day which marked the founding of a new People’s Republic, the people throughout the nation gathered in huge rallies to raise their shots of joy as the new national flag was hoisted, the Five-Starred Red Flag. In Peking alone, 300,000 people packed the square before Tian An Men (The
Gate of Heavenly Peace) to cheer their revered leaders.

The people of rejuvenated China are no longer drudged like a heap of sand. Nation-wide workers' organizations have rapidly been founded or expanded under the guidance of the All-China Federation of Labour. During the months prior to the convening of the Chinese People's PCC, hardly a day passed without some national congress being held in Peking. After the adjournment of the All-China Student Congress on March 6, the All-China Student Federation was formed, which now has a membership of ten million. Next came the First All-China Women's Congress, attended by 41 representatives coming from all over the country, which opened on March 24. The Congress formed the All-China Democratic Women's Federation, with a present membership of twenty million, which is the first national organization for Chinese women.

The All-China Youth Congress that opened on May 4 culminated in the inauguration of the All-China Democratic Youth Federation. Professional workers, such as writers and artists, educators, scientists in various fields, engineers, journalists, etc., have all formed their own national associations. Marxist or non-Marxist, all are united by the common desire to build up a new, independent and democratic country.

Popular unity is the basis upon which not only the state apparatus but all the lower levels of the political structure are erected. It is true that popular elections by universal franchise, as stipulated in the Common Program passed by the Chinese People's PCC, have not been carried out in all the provinces, especially the newly liberated ones. Time must be allowed for the complete eradication of the reactionary forces, the carrying out of land reform throughout the country and the still more extensive organization of the people. Nevertheless, People's Representatives Conferences or People's Congresses have been held in most of the liberated cities and districts to elect their local governments. In the older liberated areas, for instance, throughout the whole of the North, popularly elected governments have already begun to function.

The People's China did not wait until the end of war to embark on various projects of reconstruction. The general policies for carrying out national reconstruction were laid down in the Common Program of the Chinese People's PCC. They are, as stated in this document, to develop production and bring about a prosperous economy. To do this, we must eliminate feudal and colonial exploitation, to build "a people's economy of New Democracy", and to "steadily transform the country from an agricultural into an industrial one". For this purpose, the state-owned, cooperatively-owned and privately-owned enterprises shall be coordinated into an integrated economy under the leadership of state-owned economy. Land reform shall be carried out in all areas.

Efforts along these lines have already reaped noticeable results.

On the basis of the confiscated enterprises formerly belonging to the KMT's bureaucratic capital, a state-owned sector of economy has emerged and is assuming an increasingly vital role in the economic life of the country.

In all the older liberated areas the feudal and semi-feudal land ownership system has been transformed into a system of peasant land ownership by enforcing the principle of "Land to the Tiller". Over 90 percent of China's railways, demolished by twelve years of almost constant war, have been put back into operation.

Out of the debris left by KMT destruction, the people in the Northeast have not only restored all the major branches of economy, but in many cases they already raised production above the level prevailing before Japan's surrender. The creativeness of workers who are conscious of being the new masters of the state has been spectacularly demonstrated in the restoration of railways. Two days after the Yungtse crossing of Generalissimo Chiang was resumed between the extremes north of Manchuria and Pukow, on the northern bank of the Yungtse River across from Nanking, in spite of the fact that many bridges along the southern section of the railway had been destroyed by the retreating enemy.

Prompt resumption of inland transportation, plus the policy of "mutual aid between the cities and the countryside" had a revitalizing effect upon the towns rendered moribund by imperial and feudal exploitation. A notable example is Shanghai. This fourth largest city of the world, in defiance of the American-supported KMT coastal blockade and bombing from the air, is being steadily transformed from a port which depended for its very existence on products and even foodstuffs imported from abroad into a productive centre geared to the needs of a balanced and self-supporting economy for the whole of China.

On the cultural front, the achievements during 1949 were no less noteworthy than those on the political and economic fronts.

All schools in liberated cities have reopened while primary schools and village schools have multiplied. Special classes for workers have been opened in most factories for technical as well as literacy training.

Popular dramas and moving pictures, based on realistic themes, have been substituted for the escapist nonsense with which Hollywood drugs the movie-goers.

Books of Marxist classics, Mao Tse-tung's writings and novels telling stories of the Chinese revolutionary struggles were sold in millions of copies, only limited by the supply of newsprint.

These achievements could never have been made without the staunch determination of the Chinese people to stamp out imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism and to build an independent, democratic, peaceful, united and prosperous country of their own.

The Chinese people's great victory which culminated in the establishment of their Central People's Government were widely acclaimed by friendly nations. Immediately following the inauguration of the People's Republic of China, it established diplomatic relations with the U.S.S.R., Bulgaria, Rumania, Hungary, Korea, Czechoslovakia, Mongolia, Germany and Albania. This, in turn, spurred the Chinese people to redouble their efforts in reconstituting their nation into a bulwark of the world peace camp.

Of especial significance in this respect is the tremendous unity achieved at the two international conferences held in Peking during the closing weeks of the year. These were the Asian and Australasian Trade Union Conference, under the auspices of the World Federation of Trade Unions, and the Asian Women's Conference, convened by the Women's International Democratic Federation. Both conferences came to a unanimous conclusion that the road which had led the Chinese people to victory was, in essence, the road to liberation for all the oppressed peoples in colonial and semi-colonial countries.

Crowning the successes of the Chinese revolutionary struggles during the past year was the great event of Chairman Mao Tse-tung's visit to Moscow. The news brought great exultation to all the Chinese people, who staged a nationwide jubilee in celebration of Stalin's seventieth birthday. The event signified the ever closer solidarity between the peoples of the two great nations, China and the U.S.S.R. It was a living expression of the change in the world balance of power in favour of the forces of peace and democracy, to which the victory of the Chinese people was undoubtedly a tremendous contribution.

On looking back, the year of 1949 will certainly be a monumental year in the history of China, as monumental as the year 1917 for the U.S.S.R. This was the year of Chinese liberation from five thousand years of feudalist rule and more than one hundred years of imperialist domination. It was the year of defeat for the imperialist camp of war, and especially for American imperialism. It was the year of victory for the world camp of peace.

On the basis of the victory achieved, the 475 million people of China will follow their great leader, Mao Tse-tung, in carrying on their revolutionary struggles, in forging unity with the U.S.S.R. and all the peace-loving peoples of the world, and in thwarting all imperialist schemes for war or intervention.

The Chinese people face the new year ahead with faith in Mao Tse-tung's words: "If only we uphold the people's democratic dictatorship and unite with our international friends, we shall be everlasting triumphantly."
**Wan Sui, Wan Sui!**

Stalin's 70th Birthday Warmly Celebrated in China — by Lao Duan

"It is a great event that mankind has Stalin. Since we have him, things can go well," So said Chairman Mao Tse-Tung long ago when the Chinese people were celebrating Stalin's 60th birthday in Xinan, then citadel of Chinese democracy.

For the progressive humanity tied by Stalin, things have been going on well indeed. As the world celebrated the great leader's 70th birthday on Dec. 21, 1949, lasting peace and people's democracy was closer to all mankind than ever. As China celebrated this historic day, she had freed herself from the clutch of feudalism and imperialism and embarked on the way to prosperity and happiness. This was why Dec. 21 was so much more than a formal occasion in China; it was a great popular festival of peace and democracy. Across the breadth and width of the nation, people joined their voices on this day to sing "Wan Sui, Wan Sui!" — a thousand years and a thousand million years to Stalin," which is the Chinese equivalent for "Long live Stalin."

**A Gala Day**

Peking, the people's capital, witnessed a multitude of festive activities. The city woke up early in the morning of Dec. 21 to the sound of drums and gongs. Red flags and banners waved here and there in the busy winter sun. The main thoroughfares were more crowded than usual. The city was in festivity and holiday spirit reigned.

Processions of workers, soldiers, government employees and students followed front-pacing trucks carrying portrait statues of Stalin and Mao Tse-Tung, national flags and scarlet banners and placards. Many of them clad in colourful costumes and did Yangko dances along the city's crowded avenues. Every college and school campus was gaily-decorated, and scroll pictures were seen moving slowly through the streets.

The Soviet Embassy, in the former "Legation Quarters," was the centre of celebrations. The adjacent lanes were jammed with people from morning to night. The roof of the Embassy building was be-decked with red flags. Above the centre of the main entrance was a big portrait of Stalin topped with a shining red star. On either side draped long scarlet streamers.

The first group of congratulaters arrived at the Embassy by nine o'clock in the morning. And it was a steady stream of people — men, women, young and old, kept surging to the Embassy till four o'clock in the afternoon. Among the throng were white-haired elders, bulging children, peasants and labourers, renowned professors and scholars. Altogether some 20,000 people representing 200-old organizations joined the greeting processions.

Songs, hand music, the beating of drums and gongs, cheers and applause and shouts of "Wan Sui, Wan Sui!" filled the Embassy's open courtyard. A. P. Shilnik, Charge d'Affaires in the absence of Ambassador Reischkin, stood with other Soviet officials in a reception line, welcoming the great people's response to the greetings of "Long Live Stalin" and "Long Live the Friendship and Cooperation Between the Chinese and the Soviet Peoples," they often answered in Chinese: "Long Live Chairman Mao Tse-Tung, Long Live the People's Republic of China."

A wide variety of gifts were piled up before the Embassy building. Among them were embroidered Chinese satin scrolls with inscriptions such as "Wishing you an age as long as the Southern Mountains" or "With pictures of the god of longevity."

A Peking citizen presented a scroll covered with 1,000 golden longevity characters engraved by hand the characters "Longevity to Stalin" on the bottom, while on one side he had carved a picture of Stalin and on the other, the 658-character messages exchanged between Stalin and Premier Zhou En-lai and Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Grigoryev when diplomatic relations were established between these two countries. "This is an article I dearly treasure, so I present it to Stalin, the man I love and respect," he said.

The Federation of Labour presented a cake on which were vanished 100 of the Chinese farmers. The workers of a factory presented 200 catty barrels of wine that had aged for one hundred years. The newspapers and periodicals presented six specially-made "longevity" bows. One of the workers remarked that they planned to send Stalin six more bows on his next birthday so that the great leader would see how they had improved the quality of their products.

Other gifts included an autograph with 200,000 signatures presented by the Peking Branch of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association and a scroll presented by the National Peking University with a long verse titled "Stalin, to you ever young!" People were widely represented throughout the country. One of the most salient pieces was a review of Stalin's guidance to the Chinese revolution during the two decades, which was titled "Stalin and the Chinese Revolution." It was written by five outstanding Chinese revolutionary theoreticians. This article was assigned as subject matter for study in all universities, schools and public and private organizations.

The press devoted the bulk of its space to dispatches reporting the celebration activities at home and abroad as well as people paid their verses written in commemoration of this grand occasion. Every newspaper from front to back of Stalin's picture twice or even thrice a week. The broadcasting stations also arranged special programmes everywhere. In the national news, Soviet film about Stalin were shown. Outside each box-office there was always a long queue waiting, as a schoolboy put it, "to congratulate Stalin on the screen."

The busiest place in the capital city was perhaps the big bookstores, where a new hold a sale of useful literature and books about and by Stalin. From morning to dusk the stores were thronged with customers. Many people waited for almost two hours before they were served and bought the books they wanted. The best-sellers were: Stalin's biographies, "Dialectical and Historical Materialism" and "Problems on Leninism" by Stalin, and the "History of the C.P.S.U.B."

In front of the Hsin Hua Bookstore, a large piece of cloth was laid on a table for the customers to sign their names as a birthday greeting to Stalin. A little boy placed beside the Chinese New Year speech and wrote his name in big bold characters. "Are they not too big?" someone asked. "Comrade Stalin is now seventy, and they say that he is old. I want to make sure that he sees my name and gets my greeting." The boy said.

In addition to all these celebrations, some people decided to offer their congratulations directly to Stalin by mail. Three hundred letters were received by the editorial staff of the People's Liberation Army. The soldiers re-wrote their letters over and over, and finally they selected the specially-selected envelopes which were addressed to "Comrade Stalin, Moscow." "We are determined to intensify our own training and make ourselves well-prepared," as a great soldier once said to Stalin: "We shall hold the liberation of Formosa and all China.""
Three Different Asias.

One Common Struggle

by Lung Men

For the first time in history, the voices of the women of Asia were able to join in one voice—in different languages, of course—to express their sufferings and aspirations. For the first time in history, the women of Asia, coming from homes in the far north and from tropical islands, from the Pacific and the Orient, were able to gather together under one roof to exchange their combat experiences and to hammer out a program for concerted action against imperialism.

Assembled in Peking, capital of New China, were 168 delegates from fourteen countries representing nearly 500 million people in Asia. Also present at the Conference were 33 fraternal delegates from France, Czechoslovakia, Algeria, Holland, Cuba, Great Britain, the United States, South America, and Madagascar. During the 7-day session which began on December 16 to 18, 1940, four reports were given, and forty speeches made by various delegates.

The climax of the meeting came when Nadejda Parfenova, head of the Soviet delegation, described the highway of progress of the Soviet Federation, and the liberation of the Soviet Union. "There is one of the three Asias, the Asia of the Soviet Union. There are two other Asias, the Asia of People's Democracies and the Asia still under colonial oppression. To the women still under the yoke of feudalism and imperialism, the Soviet Asia is the Asia of tomorrow."

The women of New China, Mongolia, North Korea and the Liberated Areas of Viet-Nam, having freed themselves from imperialism, domination and feudal chauvinism, are now masters of their own destinies. The delegates from these four countries took the floor, one after another, to tell the Conference how the women in their respective lands fought or are fighting with their enemies on the battlefield and on the production front. They told how, after victory has been achieved, they are shaping a new society of abundance for all with the same hands that had hitherto toiled for the comfort of the idle wealthy families. This is the Asia of the People's Democracies. This is the Asia on the march towards progress and civilization, leaving behind it a nightmare past.

The picture of the third Asia was depicted by delegates from such colonial or dependent countries as Indonesia, India, Laos, Cambodia, Viet-Nam, Burma, Japan, Philippines, and China. The many stories of starvation, slavery, degradation and exploitation that they enumerated revealed the ruthless exploitation of the foreign imperialists, who thrive on the blood of the oppressed masses. When the audiences learned that the Indian peasants were starved in the midst of bountiful harvests, they demanded the reason. When they heard of the premature death of the toiling women in Iran caused by overwork for a rear tan- neries or in dusty wool-spinning shops, they queried with anger. When they were informed that the Vietnamese women were sold to the brothels and gambling houses, they were intensely indignant. And when they learned how poverty-stricken mothers in colonial countries were forced to work helplessly as their beloved children died of hunger and illness, many mothers in the audience could not restrain their tears. This is the fate of the present-day women living in a medieval Asia. But colonial Asia will soon become a thing of the past, an Asia of yesterday.

And so, the three different Asias decided to meet in Peking to unite themselves in a struggle against their common enemy—imperialism. The consensus of the Conference was that it is the imperialism, especially those of America, who have been escalating for a reactionary war against the Soviet Union, so as to wipe out all hope of progress. It is they who are pitting the toiling masses in China, and who are still attempting to obstruct the complete liberation of Viet-Nam. It is they also, as all delegates pointed out time and again, who have been laying the foundations of a colonial Asia in perpetual subjugation. It follows, the Conference declared, that the imperialists must be driven out of Asia once and for all, for only then can all the people of Asian live and grow prosperous together as one big family.

The Conference has inestimably strengthened the unity among the women of Asia in their common struggle for a decent life and a better to-morrow.

The presence of fraternal delegations from outside Asia, as well as the hundreds of congratulatory messages pouring to the assembly from every corner of the world, indicated the fact that the women of Asia are not fighting a solitary battle against the camp of aggression and imperialism headed by Wall Street.

So, they are by no means alone. The women of Asia, united with the women from the United States in unequivocal terms condemned the imperialist forces in their own countries, which are also being threatened by the same threat to the peace and happiness of the women of the world. The fraternal delegates from Great Britain demanded that British imperialism should be held responsible for "the anguish and suppression of countless generations of people in the colonial and dependent countries."

There were many vivid demonstrations of mutual friendship and affection that ignored national boundaries. Delegates from war-ravaged Asia took time to show warm friendship and gave pledges of mutual support. Indonesian and Dutch delegates exchanged gifts as a token of their friendship, as did the Viet-Namese and French delegates. Dutch fraternal delegate Lips Odint told Lilah Baruapi from the fighting Indonesia: "It is our duty and task to strengthen our orchestra against colonial war and to support the Indonesian women and people in their struggle for freedom." French fraternal delegate Jeanette Vennemères's voice quivered with emotion when she declared: "The people understand how unjust and criminal the war against the people of Viet-Nam is."

She added: "People who oppress others cannot themselves be free." With tears in her eyes, Ho Thi Mien from free Viet-Nam thanked the French women for their support to the liberation war of her people.

All those present at the meeting were deeply moved by these touching scenes. They saw national respect for each other, colour and belief, barriers collapsed and racial pre- judgement against the sadistic imperialists. Judges melt away in the face of these true internationalism. They saw mankind marching towards the line-up of the enslaved, iron- don and a lasting peace.

Cultural World

The Birth of New China

— A Documentary Film

The documentary film entitled The Birth of New China is a production of the Peking Film Studio. It is the work of forty cameramen, and, as edited by Kao Wei-tien, runs forty-five minutes. It provides a true record of a great historical event—the "ten days in 1949" in which more than 400 million people "shook the whole world."

The film begins on September 21, 1949, the opening day of the Chinese People's PCC. Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the great leader of the Chinese people, is shown making the opening address at the conference. His voice is powerful and the sound recording is excellent.

The camera traces the events of those historic days in which a new China was created. From the conference hall it takes us to the ceremony held in Peking on October 1st to inaugurate the new government. The sparsely square before the Tien An (Heavenly Peace) Gate is densely crowded with three hundred thousand persons gathered to celebrate the historic occasion, turning the area into a sea of red flags. Before this vast hushed assembly, Chairman Mao reads the Proclamation on the founding of the People's Central Government.

"This film occupies a unique position in the history of Chinese cinema, and it will also remain one of the few treasures of the world. If the birth of the new China is an event of first magnitude, then this film, a living record of that event, will inevitably become one of the treasures handed down to posterity. It has recorded also the rejoicing of the millions of Chinese people throughout the country, in the farthest distant Mongolian grasslands and in Harbin, Changhai, Mukden, Tientsin, Tsian, Hankow, Nanking, Hangchow and Shanghai. Those who worked on the film can indeed take pride in the fact that they have ably reflected the feelings of the broad masses of the Chinese people, a difficult task which required the highest artistic and technical skill.

Magazines of Verse

Two magazines in Chinese devoted to poetry are appearing this January: The People's Poetry published by poets in Shanghai and the Poetry Of The Masses published by poets in Peking. The latter incorporates the Poetry & Young Call, a small but militant poetry magazine which had a wide circulation even before Peking was liberated.

Scientists Annual Meeting

On December 19, 1949, ten academic societies, including astronomy, geology, physics, chemistry, meteorology, zoology, botany, soil science and medicine, held a joint meeting in Nanking lasting for two days. Various papers were read and research projects discussed. The central topic of the meeting was how to popularize science among the people.
From Beggar To District Leader

Fu Lien

"In Liberated China, it does not matter whether you were formerly a beggar or a scholar. Your position in society only depends on how well you serve the people." When Han Shiu-tsung made this comment, she was not expressing some abstract principle. She was distinctly the very model of the sentiment embodied in the experiences of her own life.

Han Shiu-tsung herself had been born to a beggar family and for the past twenty years of her life she had lived chiefly by begging. Today she is the deputy district leader of Chen Wu district, Po Hsin county, in northeastern Shantung province. The people she serves in this capacity have shown her their affection and gratitude by hanging maps of China from which they have elected her a model district leader, made her a member of the People's Congress and sent her to Peking as a delegate to the First All-China Women's Congress.

If Han Shiu-tsung's district had not been liberated back in 1940, she would probably have starved to death long ago. Shiu-tsung's mother had been brought up as a slave girl in a landlord's family, and her father was a landless peasant labourer who generally could only find work during peak farming seasons. As a result, the Shiu-tsung family lived on a diet of bran with very few vegetables. In the worst of times, the family lived by begging door to door, gathering handouts from peasants only slightly better off than themselves.

Looking back, it seems to Shiu-tsung as if most of her childhood contacts were with the poor. Her mother begged, her father begged. Even today, she will not allow herself a single mouthful of food unless there is a mouthful for her mother in-law. And the mother-in-law had died long before. The father-in-law was an old man with little authority in his own household. An elder son and his wife had been taking care of him. They were mean and selfish tyrants. They pilled all kinds of work on the new daughter-in-law without even giving her sufficient to eat in return. If any small matter aroused their displeasure, they goaded the idiot husband into beating her. On one occasion the husband even hit her so hard that her body was one mass of bruises and welts.

The husband himself was not a bad sort, in his stupid and childish way. He beat her only because he dared not disobey his brother and sister-in-law. If the beating caused her to cry, he would try to comfort her. Sometimes he even refused to beat her, which brought the elder couple's rage down on his own head. Three times in the course of such scenes, Shiu-tsung saw the husband attempt to commit suicide.

Finally the day came when Shiu-tsung rebelled against working as a slave girl in the farm household. She could not even get enough to eat in return for her labour. When the husband and father-in-law tried to beat her, Shiu-tsung and her younger brother couple drove all three of them from the house. By way of dividing the household, the elder brother gave Shiu-tsung the two rooms and the younger brother and sister-in-law the 1.9 mow of worn-out land.

Han Shiu-tsung made up her mind to earn a living for her husband and father-in-law. She could not till the land herself, because of the shortage of seed or implements, much less any knowledge of farming. Her field would also have required a great deal of fertilizer and cow-manure. Could she afford to buy it? So she borrowed two silver dollars as capital to get started in spinning thread and weaving cloth. But in the old society, even though there might be one hundred ways to earn a living, none was as hard as begging. Poor. By the time spring came, the money she had earned could barely pay the interest on the loan. She turned to the left and then to the right, but her only sink deeper into debt. Finally there was nothing to do but take up her stick and start begging again.

Misfortunes continued to sweep over the land. The famine invaded North China, penetrating into her area. Then drought followed by floods swept them family in their wake. With her husband and father-in-law, she fled to the south.

"Up until this time," Shiu-tsung later remarked, "it seemed as if I had been living a dead sort of life. Begging is terribly degrading, and I often went for days without eating.

II

In the spring of 1940, Bih Chia village was liberated by the Eighth Route Army. When the news reached Han Shiu-tsung, she returned to her home village with her family, which now included her infant daughter.

Not long after Shiu-tsung's return, several cadres of the people's government came to her. They helped her get seed and farm implements to till the 1.9 mow of land which she had received from her husband's family.

"In the old days," one of the cadres told her, "the poor toiled all their lives and when they died, they could not even afford to have a grave. You are now a beggar, but we want to show the other poor women in the village that they could improve their livelihood through production. With the help of these women, we will train Shiu-tsung to help in planning their own production projects. Meanwhile she also went about the village organizing women and publicized the advantages of organized production.

From this time on, the prestige of Shiu-tsung's production group increased steadily. Six months later, in the spring of 1945, the membership had risen to seventy women, representing a total of twelve persons each. And by this time, three-quarters of the village women had joined the Women's Association.

Women's social status in the community already showed marked improvements. As Shiu-tsung noted:

"Daughters-in-law were formerly the most oppressed of all women. But since, now they could support themselves by their own production, the attitude of the older people towards their world law became quite different. Now daughters-in-law were treated very politely. The mothers-in-law even asked them for money and clothing."

In 1945, Han Shiu-tsung was named a region-wide labour heroine and attended the Congress of Model Heroes of Pekai Area (the area covering northwestern Shantung).

III

One afternoon in April, 1946, when Han Shiu-tsung was at home, the villagers brought her a paper with a large red seal on it. To this day, Shiu-tsung has not forgotten a character written on that sheet of paper. The document read:

"Comrade Han Shiu-tsung is hereby appointed deputy district leader of Chen Wu District of Po Hsin county."

Below was the big official seal and the signature of the Commissioner of Pekai area. She was printed, "But a few weeks later a letter came to me from Po Hsin county which indicated that she, a woman who had begged for twenty years, could become a district leader!"

The last few days before Shiu-tsung left her village for her new post were filled with a round of meetings. All the various village organizations congratulated her, pointed out and wished her every success. Some of the women, however, could not bear the thought of the new responsibility and felt that the higher authorities had deprived them of their pillar of strength. Whenever Shiu-tsung would speak to the village head about her new undertaking, there was the threat of the big flood when she was eleven. Her mother fled with her three daughters to a neighboring region where they resumed their begging.

A few are one-tenth of a pie.
people's China

the united front in literature and art (continued from page 12)

During the last thirty years, the literature and art of feudalism repented the Chinese revolution has been rejected, and the Kuomintang fascistic literature and art, representing the bourgeois class, has all the time been one of attacking artists and the people through the country. Aside from these main lines of attack, the Kuomintang, its literary and artistic circles during the last thirty years occurred between the two trends: the one, representing the bourgeois class, being the trend of 'art for art's sake' and the other, representing the proletarian class and all revolutionary people, being the trend of 'art for the people's sake'. As a result of thirty years' struggles between these two trends, the theory of 'art for art's sake', influenced by the moribund literature and art of the capitalist countries, has already been completely bankrupt; works based on that theory have lost their audience of the bourgeois which once were under its influence have gradually changed their outlook on life and art, and have accepted the long tradition of the proletarian ideology. On the other hand, literature and art under this leadership and serving the people, has grown stronger. Their direction has become more and more definite, and it has received widespread and broad masses of the people.

These historical facts explain the Chinese bourgeois class, though being still very strong, the failure of its literature and art, failed miserably because it could not unite with the people, and the people, furthermore that any writer or artist, refusing to accept the leadership of the proletariat, will achieve nothing. This proves that the Kuomintang, its Chinese literature and art, representing the bourgeois class, has all the time been one of attacking artists and the people through the country.

From last thirty years' history of Chinese literature and art there is this lesson to draw which every serious writer and artist should do well to heed. Now, the great contributions of the Chinese Revolution have shaken all those who in the past were not involved in the revolution. Hence there emerges the attitude that the Chinese revolution is weak united front on a scale even more extensive than that of the past. In his speech at the Preparatory Committee of the Communist Party of China's, cultural and defense work will be carried out on an extensive scale. This is the time for us to consider these new changes, especially writers and artists in the new era. With such an extensive united front before us we have the question of how we shall understand this situation.

1. We shall strengthen our unity and together with the people of the entire nation shall struggle for the complete defeat of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat-collusion spirit, intensify both the struggle and the construction.

2. We shall plunge deep into reality, give expression to and propagate the heroic splendor of the bravery of the masses of the people. We shall create a people's literature and art rich in thought and moral content but comprehended by the people's life. We shall study in a true spirit of love to read and to listen and to which our great mission of educating the people, that the new writers and artists shall be paid to the literary and artistic activities of the masses in the factories, countryside and armed forces, that new writers and artists are recruited from among the masses.

3. We shall systematically the influence of obsolete, semi-imperialist and semi-feudal literature and art and oppose the influence on literature and art of the capitalist countries and of the imperialistic clique which are enemies of us. We shall critically accept all our literary and artistic work, develop all fine and progressive traditions, and pursue as far as possible the valuable experiences of the U.S.S.R., earnestly developing the organic relationship between patriotism and internationalism.
We have seen that the Chinese literary and artistic movement has long upheld the valuable tradition of uniting itself with political movements. Since the May Fourth Movement, in each historical period the main current of the Chinese literary and artistic movement has increasingly become a noticeable fighting unity in the revolutionary and political movement of the time. Together with the ingenious and courageous Chinese people, many writers and artists have aimed at their blood and lives. In the period of the Agrarian Revolution, a number of left-wing writers were slain or imprisoned by the KMT. In the Anti-Japanese War and the Liberation War, still more of them sacrificed themselves on the battlefront, in the prison cells and in the hands of the landlords and the secret police. We must inherit their self-sacrificing spirit, and join in this struggle against imperialism, feudalism, and reaction in order to achieve socialist democratic capitalism and in the construction of a new China.

Our field being literature and art, we should take part in the struggle and in construction not only by political action, but also with our literary and artistic productions. For thirty years, Chinese new literary and artistic movements with regard to the social status they have gained, the influence they have won over the broad masses of progressive masses, the contributions they have made to the Chinese revolution, have without doubt been magnificently triumphant. Namely, the semi-colonial and semi-feudal literature and art, and that of the metropolitan city, which has remained practically intact. They have boldly swung away among the backward masses of the people. We ought to instruct the reactionary front and west from them the regions which they now occupy. This must be achieved by various means. One means is the vigorous spread of literature in liberating areas, which is to educate and to bring artists into the countryside to reform both the obsolete literary style and the performers. Nor should we deny the fact that the influence of the literature and art of the imperialist bourgeois countries and of the feudalists still exists. These are to be combated with criticism and self-criticism. We must also work towards influencing the masses and artists and activities among the masses in factories, in the countryside and on the armed forces. And all this is to be done for the development of our new literature and art, the establishment of an international proletariat literature and art, and the people's and for the purpose of serving the people.

The main defect of the new literature and art created since the May Fourth Movement is its failure to establish a sufficiently close union with the people. In the past, whenever we made mistakes we always blamed the objective conditions, but never corrected our attitude towards our people. The first thing of our disposal except the puff of east wind to start with. This wind is not and our efforts are not justified literary and artistic works which are worthy of our great nation. We ought to throw into the wide masses of the broad masses of the Chinese nation.

Great indeed are our tasks! But we set our course, and are assisted by many important and friendly forces. The importance of them all is that the writers and artists must tread all possible paths to unite with the people. The whole movement of our writers and artists. Those who have in some way or other already united with the people must mature and Chairman Mao Tse-tung's often repeated warning: "Do not be deceived and sold out!" These writers who hitherto have not achieved such unity must attain sufficient knowledge and knowledgefulness to do so. The workers have now a high level of study. Hard work with modesty towards the people and with the help of our leadership, we believe that the historical task of these thirty years of this generation will be achieved. The works of literature and art which we create will be warmly welcomed and will be of educational value to them.

**January**

19th. The Hsiao-hou-Peng-pu Area Campaign successfully concluded, with 40,000 KMT troops annihilated.

14th. Chairman Mao Tse-tung issues 8-point terms for peace talks with either the KMT government or the KMT troops.

21st. Chiang Kai-shek announces his "temporary retirement"; his "presidency" succeeded to by Li Tsung-jen.

31st. Peiping Liberated.

**February**

5th. Cruiser S.S. Chungking with a crew of 450 aequilates of Shanghai for liberated China.

**March**

During the middle of the month, the Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, successfully concluded in Shih-hsia-chuang. It is decided in the session that the entire gravity of the Party's work should be shifted from the countryside to the cities.

17th. The All China Student Congress opens in Peiping, following which, the All China Student Federation is established.

24th. The All China Women's Congress inaugurated in Peiping, following which the All China Democratic Women's Federation is established.

**April**

26th. The CC of the CPC and the HQs of the PLA both move into Peiping.

29th. The CC of the CPC appoints delegations of five members, headed by Chou En-lai for the peace parley beginning April 1; the KMT is notified to send delegation for Peiping for negotiations.

**May**

3rd. The PLA takes Hanchow, provincial capital of Chekiang.

14th. The All China Youth Congress opens in Peiping with 400 delegates, following which, the All China Federation of Democratic Youth is established.

16th. Hankow, Hanyang and Wuchang, provincial capital of Hubei, liberated.

20th. Sian, capital of Shensi Province, liberated.

22nd. Nanchang, provincial capital of Kiangsi, liberated.

27th. Shanghai liberated.

30th. The All China Federation of Labour appoints a delegation of 26 headed by Liu Ning-yi to attend the 2nd World Trade Union Conference to be held in Milan.

**June**

2nd. Tsingtao, last seaport of the KMT in North China, liberated.

9th. The KMT Finance Conference is held in Shanghai.

15th. The 1st plenary session of the Preparatory Committee for New Political Consultative Conference, attended by 134 members from 23 representative units, inaugurated in Peiping.

**July**

1st. "On People's Democratic Dictatorship" by Chairman Mao Tse-tung published on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the CPC.

1st. The All China Railway Workers' Provisional Congress convened in Peiping.

10th. Secretary General of the Peiping City Committee of First All China Congress of Writers and Artists, following which the All China Association of Writers and Artists is established.

10th. First through passenger express leaves Peiping for Shanghái.

16th. Chiang Kai-shek arrives at Baguio to confer with E. Quirino, President of the Philippines, to thrash out mutual problems concerning Communist threat in Asia.}

16th. Ichang and Shashi, vital Yangtze River ports in west Hubei, liberated.

16th. The China's Delegation to the Second Congress of World Democratic Youth and the World Democratic Youth Festival leaves Peiping for Budapest.
AUGUST
1st. Changsha, provincial capital of Hunan, liberated.
13th. The 1st Peiping All-Circles Representative Conference convened.
17th. Foochow, provincial capital of Fukien, liberated.
21st. The Northeast China All-Circles Representative Conference convened in Mukden.
26th. Lanchow, provincial capital of Kansu, liberated.

SEPTEMBER
5th. Sining, provincial capital of Tsinghai, liberated.
19th. The entire province of Suiyuan including provincial capital Kweisui liberated.
21st. The Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference opens in Peiping.
23rd. Yinchuan, provincial capital of Ningsia, liberated.
25th. Sinkiang, one of the largest provinces of China, liberated.
29th. The Common Program of the Chinese People's PCC passed by the People's PCC.
30th. Mao Tse-tung, elected Chairman of the People's Government of the People's Republic of China; Chu Teh, Liu Shao-chi, Soong Ching-ling, Li Chih-shen, Chang Lan, Kao Kang, elected vice-chairmen; 180 members of the National Committee of the Chinese People's PCC elected.

OCTOBER
1st. The formation of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China officially proclaimed by Chairman Mao Tse-tung at a gigantic mass rally of over 300,000 in Peking.
1st. Foreign Minister Chou En-lai officially delivers Chairman Mao Tse-tung's proclamation to the governments of foreign countries, with an official letter regarding the establishing of normal diplomatic relations.
1st. The Soviet cultural delegation headed by Alexander Fadeyev arrives at Peking.
2nd. Andrei Gromyko, Deputy Foreign Minister of the U.S.S.R., informs Foreign Minister Chou En-lai by telegram, of the Soviet Government's decision to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China.
3rd. The China Committee for Defending World Peace formed in Peking with Kuo Mo-jo as Chairman.
3rd. Diplomatic relations with Bulgaria and Rumania established.
4th. Diplomatic relations with Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary and Korea established.
6th. Diplomatic relations with Mongolia established.
14th. Canton, KMT refugee capital No. 1, liberated.
16th. N. V. Roshchin, first Ambassador of the Soviet Union to China, presents credentials to Mao Tse-tung, Chairman of the Central People's Government.
27th. Diplomatic relations with German Democratic Republic established.

NOVEMBER
9th. 4,000 personnel of the China National Aviation Corporation and the Central Air Transport Corporation in Hong Kong repudiate KMT reactionaries and declare allegiance to the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China.
15th. Foreign Minister Chou En-lai sends telegram to the President of the United Nations General Assembly denying legal status of the bogus KMT delegation, affirming that the Central People's Government is the sole legal government of China.
15th. Kweiyang, capital of Kweichow Province, liberated.
16th. The Trade Union Conference of Asian and Australasian Countries inaugurated in Peking.
22nd. Kweilin, capital of Kwangsi Province, liberated.
23rd. Diplomatic relations with Albania established.
29th. Foreign Minister Chou En-lai issues statement warning that foreign governments which shelter KMT forces must bear responsibility for consequences.
30th. Chungking, KMT refugee capital No. 2, liberated.

DECEMBER
1st. The Trade Union Conference of Asian and Australasian Countries concluded, after establishing WFTU Liaison Bureau for Asia.
4th. KMT Acting-President Li Tsung-jen flees to America.
5th. Mao Tse-tung, Chairman of the People's Revolutionary Military Council, issues directive calling on the men of the PLA to take part in production and reconstruction during the coming year.
8th. The National Agricultural Production Conference opens in Peking.
8th. Chiang Kai-shek together with his "refugee capital" move to Taipieh.
9th. Lu Han, KMT governor of Yunnan Province, and Liu Wenhwei, KMT governor of Sikang Province, renounce relations with KMT and accept the leadership of the Central People's Government.
10th. The National Postal Service Conference opens in Peking.
10th. The Conference of Women of Asia opens in Peking.
16th. Chairman Mao Tse-tung arrives at Moscow and meets Marshal Stalin.
20th. Foreign Minister Chou En-lai lodges protest against the infringement of China's air sovereignty by the French imperialists on the 14th.
21st. Marshal Stalin's birthday celebrated by mass rallies and lecture meetings throughout the country. On the same day, Chairman Mao Tse-tung speaks at the Moscow Celebration, on behalf of the Chinese people and the CPC.
23rd. The National Education Conference opens in Peking.