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Editorial: Sino-Soviet Economic Agreements

April 16, 1950
Sino-Soviet Economic Agreements

The words “Friendship” and “Mutual Assistance” contained in the title of the recent Sino-Soviet Treaty have been translated into concrete deeds by the decision to establish three Sino-Soviet joint stock companies to help in the industrialization of China. This is an inspiring beginning of fraternal co-operation between the U.S.S.R. and China.

According to the agreements signed in Moscow on March 27, two companies will be set up to produce and refine oil, coal gas, non-ferrous metals and rare metals in Sinkiang province, which lies in Northwest China. The third company will help develop China’s civil aviation by establishing three air routes: Peking-Chita; Peking-Irkutsk; Peking-Alma Ata. China’s share in these companies consists of land, factory buildings and construction materials, while that of the Soviet Union includes mechanical equipment, industrial machinery and materials, prospecting apparatus and materials, airplanes and aeronautical equipment. The expenditures, products and profits of these jointly-operated enterprises will be shared equally by the two nations. Chinese and Soviet citizens will assume equal responsibility in the management of these enterprises. The terms of these agreements were reached on the basis of full respect for China’s sovereignty, equality and mutual benefit.

The Chinese people have welcomed these three agreements with tremendous enthusiasm, for the agreements were reached at a time when China most needed this type of material and technical assistance. They particularly welcome the Soviet Union’s offer to share its rich practical experiences gained during 30 years of socialist reconstruction. Now that the War of Liberation is drawing to an end, the Chinese people are faced with the task of consolidating and safeguarding their victory by industrializing their nation as rapidly as possible. Today, China’s industrial output is only some ten per cent of her total production. But she has huge industrial resources waiting to be tapped, and a vast, industrious population eager to harness this great industrial potential. Northwest China, hitherto one of the nation’s most backward and undeveloped areas, has all the material prerequisites for becoming, like Manchuria, another major industrial centre in China.

Similarly the agreement on civil aviation will have an important influence on the improvement of China’s communications, a necessary factor in accelerating the industrialization of the country. It will also strengthen economic and cultural relations between China and the Soviet Union, and indirectly with the People’s Democracies in Europe.

The fraternal co-operation envisaged in these agreements is a brand new experience to the Chinese people, who had suffered bitterly for more than 100 years from the unequal treaties concluded between China’s reactionary governments and various imperialistic powers. The terms of the new agreements vividly reveal the great and basic difference between ‘co-operation’ with an imperialist country whose economic system is founded upon the exploitation of the labouring people of other countries, and cooperation with a socialist country, whose economic system is controlled by the labouring people themselves and does not exploit anyone. The rapid economic recovery of the East European People’s Democracies and the steady rise in their living standards provide eloquent testimony to the type of co-operation and assistance offered by the Soviet Union.

The newly-signed Sino-Soviet economic agreements will speed up the process of rehabilitating China’s war-torn economy, and thus bring about fundamental improvements in the living of the Chinese working people. This in itself will constitute an important factor in strengthening the world camp for peace, and not surprising, under these circumstances, that the spokesmen for American imperialism have fumed with such rage against these agreements.
U. S. Espionage in Asia

After its debacle in China, the U.S. government has been compelled to look elsewhere for its outlets from which to carry on its imperialist aggression. The sight of top American diplomatic and military officials darting about the Far East in ever increasing numbers gives a clear indication of where the American imperialists are planning their next move.

To prepare the groundwork for the understanding of what the American President has described as Asia’s “under-developed areas,” Washington has raised the battle-cry: stem the tide of Communism in Asia! Cloaking its deeds under this slogan, Washington has embarked on its campaign of penetration by strengthening its espionage network in the Far East. But let no one be confused by the anti-Communist rations. The ulcerous and unmistakable aim is the economic and political subjugation of all Asian peoples to Wall Street.

Washington is not sparing men or money to build up efficient spy networks as the foundation stone for its future activities in Asia. The Washington Post reports that Congress has voted additional appropriations for augmenting American “observation posts” around China’s borders. William Butterworth, Assistant Secretary of State, told the Congressional Appropriations Committee, according to a UPI dispatch, that the 129 State Department officials withdrawn from China will be re-assigned to “periphery posts near China to get information.”

He noted: “We are going to find Philip” in Southeast Asia. Last January, at the time, the American press connected his trip with a widespread shake-up in the American espionage system in Southeast Asia. In addition to strengthening the American spy network in Hong Kong, Burma, and Indo-China, Donovan paid a flying visit to Siam, one of Washington’s major espionage centres in Asia. It was in the Siamese capital, Bangkok, that the American diplomats gathered at a conference presided over by Philip — Burke at the head of their discreditable adventures in China and the Far East.

General Douglas MacArthur, meanwhile, is drawing upon secret funds at his disposal to finance the establishment of right-wing “thunderbolts” in Japan, Indo-China and Indonesia, according to telegrams. By this devious method, he hopes to drive a wedge between the WPTU and the tolling masses of his country. The following, as revealed on March 17, that MacArthur is subsidizing reactionary churches in various Far Eastern countries and turning them into spy centres. The American espionage ring in Hong Kong, which maintains close contact with KMT agents and Catholic missionaries in China, is known to be under the direct control of MacArthur’s Head-quarters in Tokyo.

The hasty buttressing of America’s spy network in Asia provides an interesting back drop against which to view Wall Street’s frequent pro- testations of its desire to see the Asian people gain national independence, so constantly pouring from the mouths of its spokesmen, Acheson, Jossup and Co.

The rock-solid existence of the Chinese People’s Government has made it impossible for the American imperialists to carry on large-scale espionage work in China. They have learned a bitter lesson from the recent American spy case in Malayan. However, since they can be expected to continue plotting against Asia’s great New Democracy from “periphery posts,” the Chinese people will not relax their vigilance against U.S. intrigues in this part of the world. In this respect, it seems that American people’s struggle against U.S. espionage and that of the other Asian peoples are identical in character.

Although national liberation struggles are in progress throughout Asia, this region still remains fertile soil for imperialist espionage, because political power is retained in the hands of the reaction ary ruling class and the imperialists have long been entrenched in their exploiting position. In these circumstances, the U.S. government has thus been able to sprinkle its espionage centres widely throughout Asia — in Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Indo-China, Siam and other countries. The aim of American espionage activities is to “contain” the genuine people’s liberation movements in these areas. The American Hand has also used these agents in Southeast Asia and instructed them to infiltrate into the liberation movements and sabotage them from within. Stripped to its essentials, this is Acheson’s brand of “nationalism.”

To the people fighting for true liberation in Asia, this has proved to be American espionage plans serves as a timely warning to sharpen their vigilance against American disruptive activities. Let all our Asian brothers discard any illusions of freeing themselves from colonial slavery through the “aid” of the Americans. The Chinese people have, with determination and vigilance, defeated the machinations of Wall Street, so will all the people in other parts of Asia.

Education and Culture in New China

Lu Ting-yi

"We must not merely strive to transform a politically-oppressed and economically-oppressed China into a politically free and economically prosperous nation. We must also strive to transform China which has been made backward and ignorant under the domination of the old culture into an enlightened and advanced nation under the domination of a new culture."

— MAO TSE-TUNG: On New Democracy

The great victory of the Chinese Revolution is not only of first-rate significance for the struggle to safeguard world peace, it is also a momentous event for the development of the culture of mankind. One should imagine the effect of the fact that one quarter of the world’s population will be liberated from the depths of cultural ignorance and backwardness, that their intelligence and creative power will have an opportunity of developing into an unprecedented level and playing their part in the peaceful and democratic construction of the new world. Is this not a matter of tremendous importance for the development of world civilization and cultural progress?

More than two thousand years of feudal rule and one hundred years of imperialist enslavement have combined to reduce China, with the oldest culture and history into a nation of cultural ignorant and backward, where the intelligence and creative power of the people have been tragically strangled and where it is in a brilliant cultural tradition to develop. But the Chinese people have now stood up. Under the leadership of the political party of the working class, the Communist Party of China, the Chinese people have overcome this longed for rule of imperialism and feudalism and have put an end to the dark history of over two thousand years. This is a world-shaking historical event. The Chinese people’s struggle for their own country and they will also build up their own culture. This is completely possible because once the educational and cultural work is in the hands of the broad toiling masses, there can be no limit to their creative power. This new educational and cultural work of the people not only belongs to China’s toiling masses, but also an important part of the cultural work of the progressive peoples of the world. In 1940, Comrade Mao Tse-Tung published his famous book On New Democracy, which is the most outstanding work analysing the history of China’s modern culture from the angle of Marxism-Leninism. Comrade Tse-Tung in this book defined the future of Chinese culture, as quoted at the begin-
in time it will become their culture." These guiding principles as laid down by Conrade Mao Tse-tung have been clearly embodied in the Common Program adopted by the People's Political Consultative Conference of 1949 and have been written into the concrete policy for building China's educational and cultural system (see Articles 41-49 of the Common Program). These principles and policy constitute the general directive and plan for educational and cultural development in New China.

After the inauguration of the Central People's Government which has still to shoulder the great tasks of mapping up the resources of the enemy and liberating Taiwan and Tibet, the educational and cultural problems in New China are now faced with two important tasks, namely, economic reconstruction and cultural development. When the representative of the Political Consultative Conference, Conrade Mao Tse-tung predicted that a powerful wave of economic construction would inevitably be followed by a powerful wave of cultural advance. It is a 'certainty' that Conrade Mao Tse-tung's prediction will come true. None the less, if we are to crown our efforts with success, we must of necessity exert gigantic efforts to meet this challenge. After the long years of feudal rule, especially of more than two decades of fascist KMT tyranny, the tolling masses have hitherto been deprived of their chance of receiving an education, and the overwhelming majority of the people today are illiterate. Cultural and artistic activities had nothing in common with the masses. Research work in natural sciences was so seriously held up that it was virtually dying out. Even the negligible amount of scientific equipment available has been either destroyed or removed by the KMT bandits.

In the following paragraphs, I would like to give a brief description of the existing cultural and educational conditions in China and our present work.

The Present Situation

According to available data, China has at present about 300,000 primary schools, with more than 20,000,000 pupils; about 5,000 middle schools, with more than 1,500,000 students; and about 200 institutes of higher learning, with more than 100,000 students. The number of schools and students is extremely small in comparison with China's population of 475,000,000. But facts in the past year have shown that in liberated areas where agriculture has been developed, the demand for educational facilities is very great. We must therefore take positive steps to meet this great demand, and the development of educational work is very rapid.

In Northeast China, for example, there are at present 5,777,151 primary school pupils as against 2,541,622 in Japanese-occupied days, an increase of 84.2 per cent. The number of middle school students there has increased from 68,941 in 1941 under Japanese rule to 145,966, an increase of 108.5 per cent. There are at present 5,287,501 middle school pupils in Hopei province as against 1,253,796 in 1956, an increase of 245 per cent. The combined number of middle school pupils in the provinces of Hopei, Shantung, Shansi and Kansu is 101 per cent of the number of school children last year. The number of schools, at present, exceeds that in the pre-liberation years by 60 per cent in Northeast China and by about 50 per cent in the five provinces in North China.

The number of schools for the workers is also-discussed in the class composition of the students. In Northeast China, the children of workers, hired peasants, poor peasants, middle peasants and urban poor people represented 81.5 per cent of all school children last year. Statistics also show that in Liaoning, P'ingtung Province, the children of hired, poor and middle peasants constitute as high as 94 per cent of the total number of school children. There is no such phenomenon never before seen in the history of China.

In the field of adult education, the liquidation of illiteracy is an extremely important work. As mentioned before, the number of illiterates constitutes the overwhelming majority of the nation's population. Hence, the task of completing the liquidation of illiteracy will be an affair of long duration. Nevertheless, remarkable achievements have already been made in many localities. For instance, during the current year, with the number of illiterates in the area of Port Arthur and Dairen, in Northeast China, was reduced from 30 per cent to merely 4 per cent of the entire population. This, of course, is far from the standard. It should be clearly pointed out that the tremendous success of the liquidation of illiteracy campaign in the area of Port Arthur and Dairen is due to the active guidance and assistance rendered by Soviet educational experts. The "character-reading" movement is now spreading to every corner of the country. The main methods are classes and winter study. The latter consists in teaching the peasants to read and write in winter time when they have more time to spare. More than one million peasants took part in winter study last year. We intend to greatly increase the number of classes and winter study across the country this year, and plan to start in 1951 an extensive liquidation of illiteracy campaign throughout the country, first of all, in areas where agrarian reform has been completed.

Another important work in adult education is spare-time schools for the workers and peasants in economic rehabilitation after liberation. These are cadres coming from among the peasants who feel acutely the need of acquiring elementary education. The re-trained and the re-educated have gained the enthusiasm of a high level. They have taken part with enthusiasm in the production-emulation drives, in the campaign to encourage model workers, and in the new-record movement. They have voluntarily invented new techniques and raised productive efficiency. This situation has given rise to an increasing desire on their part to acquire education and scientific knowledge.

During the course of last year, spare-time schools for workers and peasants increased rapidly, especially in the rural areas like mushrooms. In the five provinces in North China, about 340 schools for worker and peasant cadres to receive education were set up. They are 2,110 spare-time schools for the workers (special supplementary classes not included) throughout the country, with a total enrolment of 761,109 students. But the number still lags far behind the actual demand, and more schools of this kind are needed.

Spare-time schools alone are not sufficient. China is in need of many highly skilled workers, technicians, engineers, administrators, industrial personnel and various kinds of highly specialized persons who are necessary to the country. Hence, it is a pressing task to establish more universities and technical schools to recruit personnel from among the peasants and intellectual cadres who have been tested by war and agrarian reform over many years, from among the officers, and men of the Red Army, the League of Red Scarves and from among the workers, and to equip them with adequate scientific knowledge.

For Workers and Peasants

In view of the above-mentioned conditions, the Central People's Government regards the development of education for workers and peasants and turning out new intellectuals necessary for both the workers and peasants as its foremost cultural and educational task. The significance of this is that it is not only meant to meet the cultural demand

(Continued on page 26)
Wall Street’s “Friendship” Towards China

Hu Sheng

A Record of Treachery

When the U. S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson says that China has not invaded the United States and has a long-standing tradition of friendship between them, he has not invented any novel concept superior to the subject. Many American diplomats and “China experts” before him have tried for decades to prove that the activities of the American government in China have been altruistic and “friendly.” But as their efforts to substantiate this fallacy have been as unsuccessful as Acheson’s. For example, an American missionary wrote in 1904 that China’s relations with the U. S. had been, as a rule, better than its relations with the European nations. But frankness forced him to admit in a later passage of his book: “By the treaties of July and October, 1844, the U. S. peacefully reaped the advantage which England had obtained at the cost of war.”

The American government got her share in the spoils of the infamous Opium War in a treaty with the Manchu regime in 1844. The U. S. was also a hidden partner in the aggressive war that British and French troops waged in China between 1856 and 1860. As a result, Washington succeeded in concluding treaties with Peking in 1858 and 1860 that were similar in nature to those which, with Britain and France. Later, the American government joined with the British and French imperialists in helping to degenerate the Manchu regime suppress the Taiping Uprising, the largest organized peasant revolt up to that time.

Naturally enough, no aggressor likes to resort to war if he can obtain as much as he wants by other means. And since the American government found such other means at its disposal, it was not but an accomplice of the other Western aggressors, a hypocrite who devouredly snatched the fruits of aggressive war from others.

Some have pointed out that although the American record from 1840 — 50 was not very savoury, into the role of a treacherous but outwardly amiable “friend.” The record of American activities in China between 1840 and 1860 revealed more than just its relativism in many of the activities which, the U. S. was an accomplice of the other Western aggressors, a hypocrite who devouredly snatched the fruits of aggressive war from others.

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Friend of China’s Reactionaries

Because the American capitalists were preoccupied with developing and monopolizing the home market in the latter half of the 19th century, they had not opened up to the European powers in fighting for privileges and concessions in China. But by the end of this period, American basic industrial production surpassed the level of domestic consumption, and dependable foreign markets became imperative. Hardly had the need for colonies arisen before the United States had seized some from Spain. After taking over the Philippines in 1898, the American government turned its eyes on China. Senator Beveridge, spokesman for the expansionists, said in 1900: “The Philippines are our province... And just beyond the Philippines are China’s illusitrious markets. We will not retreat from either... The power that rules the Pacific is the power that rules the world.” It was in this spirit that the U.S. government sent its troops against China’s capital in 1900.

The supporters of American imperialism like to maintain that even this armed attack in 1900 was an expression of “friendship.” They reason that without such action, China would have been partitioned by the other powers. We shall thus have to list the various reasons why the imperialist powers were not in a position at that time to dismember China as they had carved up Africa. How the situation certainly did not stem from any “favours” on the part of the U. S. The true content of American policy then was summed up in a report by Rockhill submitted to the American government after he participated in peace talks with China in 1901. “Our policy has always been in favour of a strong, independent and responsible Chinese government, which can and will be held accountable for the maintenance of order and the protection of our citizens and their rights under the treaties.”

That the U.S. adopted such a policy is entirely understandable. This was the only logical policy in view of the American imperialists’ late arrival on the China battlefield. Furthermore, they were fully confident of placing the whole of China under the protection of the Stairs and Stripes. Throughout the last 50 years, the American imperialists have persisted in trying to set up a government in China capable of protecting their interests and through which their aggressive aims could be realized.

What was meant by a Chinese government capable of giving protection to the imperialist interests? Unilateral, one opposed to the interests of the Chinese people, feudalistic in nature, and representative of the wealthy imperialists. When the Manchu government, headed by the Empress Dowager, was found to be too weak to protect imperialist interests in China, the American government pinned its hopes on warlords Yuan Shih-kai. After the 1911 Revolution, Dr. Sun Yat-sen was soon forced to transfer the presidency to Yuan Shih-kai and the American Congress promptly passed a resolution congratulating him on the establishment of the Chinese “Republican government.” The U. S. was the first country to recognize Yuan Shih-kai’s regime.

After World War I, American imperialists became the protectors of warlords Tsoo Kun and Wu Pei-fu, who wrested control of the Peking regime from Yuan Shih-kai. Then, Tsoo Kun and Chiang Tsao-lin. It is well known that the many struggles among Chinese warlords were essentially the reflection of conflicts among the imperialist powers. In 1924, American imperialists encouraged Tsoo Kun to appoint himself president. In June of the same year, U.S. President Harding announced that an American banking group was willing to help “unify” China. In those days Wu Pei-fu was widely acclaimed in the Anglo-American press as “one of the most patriotic friends of China.”

Thus, the record of American imperialists’ “friendship” to China, clearly demonstrates their support for only the most reactionary forces in China. They have definitely been the good friends of the Empress Dowager, “Emperor” Yuan Shih-kai, President Tsoo Kun and President Chiang Kai-shek. But on the basis of this, can they claim friendship with the Chinese people?

Open Door

Acheson and his like are fond of mentioning the Open Door policy to illustrate American “friendship” to China.

The Open Door policy is an imperialist policy by which China was relegated to the status of a semi-colony. It was with its own interests in mind and not those of China that the U.S. set forth this policy. Not even Acheson can refute this fact. Moreover, the Open Door policy invented by John Hay! No. It was a policy best suited to the common interests of the British and Americans. (Continued on page 21)
U. S. Aid—the SACO Way

Lao Duc (C)

SACO stands for a peaceful-sounding name—the Sino-American Co-operation Organization. But to those who know such organizations in SACO operations, these initials give rise to the same feeling of horror and revulsion as the names Buchenwald or Dachau.

Staffed by Americans and American-trained KMT secret agents, SACO specialized in torturing and killing passive Chinese. The latest of SACO’s cold-blooded activities was the large-scale massacre in Chungking when, on the eve of the arrival of the People’s Liberation Army, the sadistic executioners murdered more than 300 political prisoners in a few hours’ time.

In the western suburbs of Chungking lies a stretch of hilly land about seven kilometres long and ten kilometres wide. It is surrounded on all sides by pill-boxes, watch-towers, trenches and barbed-wire barricades. Some 800 buildings are scattered about that area, linked by a complicated network of highways and gravel foot paths that are dotted with sentry boxes.

After this area was fortified and became prohibited zone, inhabitants in the adjacent areas knew little of what went on there. Everyday they saw large numbers of trucks and jeeps, loaded with American and Chinese, entering in and out of the guarded area. At night they heard an almost constant sound of bells, the means by which one watch tower reported to the next at five-minute intervals. Sometimes, in the dead of night, there was the mere roar of some rifle shots.

This mystery land was the headquarters of SACO for seven years. The Chinese and American Himmlers lived in three luxurious mansions, complete with ballrooms and big gardens. Even the subordinates were housed in well-built barracks.

How many thousands of political prisoners were incarcerated here in the past seven years will probably never be known. There were two large buildings for prisoners, one called Pa’s Mansion (Pai King Kwan) and the other named Refuse Pit (Cha Tse Tung).

“Co-operation” and “Aid”

The story of SACO serves as a typical example of past “Sino-American co-operation” and “U.S. aid” to China.

SACO was established in May, 1942, upon the personal orders of Chiang Kai-shek. Tai Li, then head of Chiang’s personal gestapo network, was named chief of the organization. Deputy chief was Captain (later Rear Admiral) M. E. Miles, of the U.S. Navy.

SACO was ostensibly created for “joint espionage warfare against Japan and exchange of intelligence between China and America.” From the very outset, however, SACO agents collaborated with the Japanese and puppet army in fighting the Chinese Communists, who were waging a bitter guerrilla struggle to carve out resistance bases in the Japanese-occupied areas.

SACO expanded quickly. At the height of its activities, it maintained 14 regional headquarters and numerous branches all over KMT China. Its agents penetrated even the most remote rural areas.

The intelligence section of the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Office of Strategic Services jointly participated in the work of SACO. One of their main tasks was to train secret agents in the use of American weapons and to help them master American espionage technique. In the name of “Sino-American friendship,” the Americans taught Chiang’s trusted benchmen the art of using soft-nose bullets, deadly poisons, underground radio equipment and other “advanced” American techniques. During the war years, the Americans helped turn out 1,800 KMT secret agents at the Chungking headquarters alone.

2,000 Americans Trained

The SACO headquarters was also used to train 2,000 American agents for work in China. The Americans were provided with the most luxurious living conditions that Chungking could offer—and on occasion were even given their choice of “girlfriends” from among the concentration camp prisoners.

The Americans lavishly supplied SACO with all the equipment needed for its nefarious tasks. Even after Japan’s surrender, when the American staff began to pull out, U.S. supplies continued to pour into this Gestapo headquarters in an apparently unlimited stream. Even though the Americans were less in evidence, SACO continued to serve as an arm of the American intelligence service in China throughout the civil war.

The importance placed on SACO’s activities has been demonstrated by the fact that Chiang Kai-shek, Ambassador to Washington by the time of Ad- miral Charles M. Croke Jr. of the U.S. Navy, all on various occasions personally inspected the Chungking headquarters and reviewed the secret service corps in training there.

As SACO expanded its operations, it put up new buildings and enlarged its grounds. Many peasants and home-owners in the vicinity of its headquarters were driven off their property by gun-point. The standard eviction notice read: "Move or be arrested!"

"Aiding" and "Co-operation"

The SACO premises became so extensive in later years that they were compared with a concentration camp in itself. Besides the three splendid mansions for Tai Li, Miles and other top-ranking Himmlers, there were class rooms and dormitories for 2,000 KMT trained assassins and 1,000 guardsmen, a number of modern and comfortable buildings to house 1,000 Americans at a time; a power plant, a radio station, a printing shop, a hospital, a cinema, a big farm, a coal pit which produced 100 tons of coal monthly and a high school for the personnel’s children. The cordoned area even had a bank to issue scrip to be used inside the camp grounds.

Throughout the Anti-Japanese War, SACO had its own wireless station and kept in daily contact with the military authorities at Washington. Later, these American radio transmitters were used to communicate with the KMT leaders in Nanking, Canton and Taiwan.

Death of Tai Li

On March 27, 1946, Tai Li was killed in a plane crash. Tai Li’s long and intimate association with Chiang Kai-shek went back more than 20 years to the days when Tai Li was a student at Whampoa Military Academy. Tai Li was then named head. In time, Tai Li became one of the very few persons whom Chiang thoroughly trusted. Tai Li never appeared at public functions and was never known to issue a public statement. But as head of the KMT’s terror organization—the Bureau of Investigation and Statistics, founded in 1932—he became as notorious throughout China as Chiang Kai- shek himself. In the summer of 1945, just before his death, Tai Li was in Taiwan conferring with Admiral Croke to lay plans for further attacks against the Liberated Areas. It was on his return from this meeting that his plane crashed into a mountain in Shantung.

Tai Li’s death was followed by frantic backstage jockeying among his would-be successors. While this was in progress, SACO went into a temporary decline. Mao Jen-feng, brother of Chiang Kai-shek’s first wife, eventually succeeded Tai as head of the SACO organization. He appointed Han Yuen-chu, director of SACO’s Chungking headquarters, which was turned into the command post for all Chiang’s KMT forces after the defeat of China. Han was concurrently head of the 2nd Department of Chiang’s Southwest Military and Political Headquarters. SACO, under this new leadership, stepped up its activities and again flourished, this time on a more extensive and brutal scale than ever.

Communists, non-Communist progressives and those suspected of being out of sympathy with the old regime were flung into SACO’s concentration camp at Chungking. In those days of KMT terror, anyone could be arrested without warrant and held indefinitely without even learning the charges against him. At times there was hardly standing room left in Pa’s Mansion and Refuse Pit.

The SACO authorities are known to have employed every form of torture to extort information and confessions from their victims. Among the more commonly used to extract "confessions" were: forcing water containing pepper down the victims’ nose and throat, branding them with red-hot irons, slowly ripping out the fingernails by the roots, subjecting them to a series of progressively stronger electrical shocks, etc.

But life in the SACO concentration camp, brutal as it was, did not succeed in breaking the spirit of many prisoners. Under the leadership of the Communist party, the inmates organized a secret life of their own.

Some of the wardies at Pa’s Mansion were bribed to smuggle mail, printed material and food into the prison. Every copy of the daily newspaper was smuggled in by a small group of the prisoners undertook to put out a clandestine prison news-sheet, based on their various sources of information. They called their publication "The White Horse" (since the word "horse" in Pa’s Mansion literally means "white"). The Vanguard was nothing more than a piece of toilet paper covered with tiny hand-printed characters. The editors removed cotton from their clothing, cut and sewed it into letters and then made into ink. Their pens were sharpened bamboo chopsticks. The Vanguard came out every day and was circulated from cell to cell through carefully camouflaged holes which the prisoners carried through the walls.

The prisoners also managed to hold frequent discussions in their cells on current events. The more progressive of them organized secret study groups to learn revolutionary theory.

Thus camp inmates were able to keep well informed of the day-to-day activities of the People’s Liberation Army. Their spirits rose as the PLA drove towards Szechuan province.

Kill All, Spare None

But when the PLA crossed the provincial borders, the order came down from Chiang Kai-shek through his personal envoy: If you must execute, kill all, spare none.

General Yang Hu-cheng was the first victim of this sweeping order. General Yang had gained Chiang’s undying personal emnity for his role in the famous Sian Incident in 1936. At that time, "Young Marshal" Chang Hsiung-hua and General Yang refused to continue fighting against the Com-
Acheson's "Friendship"

Acheson boasts of American "aid" and American "friendship" for the Chinese people. Here they are in their dread reality—handcuffs and torture chambers, made in U.S.A. and used in China; corpses and misery created by Wall Street and the Kuomintang under the high-sounding title of the "Sino-American Co-operation Organization." The story of the KMT-U.S. concentration camp in Chungking begins on page 10, this issue.

A woman finds her husband at the SACO concentration camp in Chungking after the city was liberated.
Butchering in Chungking

Before the Sino-American butchers fled Chungking, they killed over 300 political prisoners in a few hours. Bullet-riddled bodies, broken arms and legs, skulls and entrails were strewn everywhere. Older burial pits are still being discovered. On right is the exhumed body of General Yang Hu-cheng, stabbed to death in the camp last September.

Main entrance of the Sino-Americans “Buchenwald” in the western suburbs of Chungking.

The entrance to Ke Ta, the North China People’s Revolutionary College, in Peking. Some students are doing a yangko dance. The story of Ke Ta begins on page 17.

Two Ke Ta students deep in thought as they analyze their former thoughts and actions.

Ke Ta intellectuals prove by ditch-digging that they no longer look down on manual labour.
Ke Ta—"A Furnace of Revolution"

Yuch Fung

The breath-taking rate at which the People's Liberation Army freed China's mainland led to many new problems. One of the most urgent was the problem of sufficient cadres to introduce the policies of the people's government in the newly liberated regions and to mobilize the population for all-out production.

The government has adapted the principle of making the greatest possible use of students, government personnel and other intellectuals of the old society. But the minds of such people are thickly encrusted with the ideology of the feudal gentry and the bourgeoisie. And as long as these people retain the viewpoint of the former ruling classes, they cannot adequately carry out the program of the new government, which is based on the interests of the labouring classes.

This problem was met by setting up people's revolutionary colleges in all newly liberated sectors of the country. These educational centres specialize exclusively in transforming old-type students and intellectuals into the new-type of cadre willing to place all his talent and energy at the service of the people. Utilizing the experiences of earlier political retraining schools in the Old Liberated Areas, these colleges now carry out their task so efficiently that the great bulk of their students have virtually become new people at the end of a six-month course.

Within the past year, more than 200,000 students have been graduated from such revolutionary colleges and assigned to various fields of work. Reports and letters flowing back to the colleges from all parts of China testify to the enthusiastic and self-sacrificing spirit with which the remoulded intellectuals are tackling their new jobs. This is the only true gauge for the success of the new-style colleges and it has fully proved their ability to turn out great numbers of suitable cadres in a remarkably short time.

One such college is situated in the outskirts of Peking, not far from the Summer Palace. This is the North China People's Revolutionary College, usually known by its Chinese abbreviation Ke Ta (pronounced Gwahm). By March, this school had trained 18,000 cadres for jobs in the new society.

Ke Ta is located in grey two-story barracks that formerly housed the troops of KMT warlords or Japanese puppets. It was opened in March, 1940, in accordance with a decision of the North China Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party. In the year since its founding, this school has graduated two groups of students and is now enrolling a third.

It cannot be said that all of these 18,000 graduates applied for entrance in a very co-operative mood. In the second term, pre-graduation self-analysis among the students revealed that only 15.53 per cent of them had come to the school motivated by sincere hope to re-educate themselves and make a clean break with the past. A large proportion, 32.2 per cent, took the six-month course with the opportunistic motive of finding jobs or advancing their careers. Another 18.92 per cent had no particular purpose in entering the school but only wanted to continue their education in one place or another. Then there was a small group, 14.41 per cent, coming largely from landlord backgrounds, that entered in hopes of thus preventing their property from being divided. Still another 2.81 per cent was looking for free board and lodging while they waited for conditions to settle down and become normalized after liberation. A good number came merely because their friends or lovers were entering the school and because this had become the 'smart' thing to do.

But whatever their motives, all students were welcomed and the specially trained staff undertook the task of reforming their outlook on life. Even KMT army officers and KMT officials were accepted. And, unknown to the school authorities, a small nucleus of KMT agents and saboteurs entered the school to make trouble or to worm their way into government positions. However, before the end of the term, 69 rifles and pistols were voluntarily handed in. Continual self-examination made these KMT agents see their mistakes and they confessed their connections and instructions. In line with the Communist policy of denucement for those who frankly confess their wrongdoings and genuinely try to reform themselves, these former agents were permitted to continue their studies and graduated with the class.

While the KMT agents were naturally the hardest to reform, almost all of the students had been thoroughly indoctrinated with the concepts of the old society that it required a painful and intensive ideological struggle to change their ideas. The scope of this task becomes readily apparent if one analyses the composition of the student body. Of the 6,000 students in the second term, for instance, 2,100 were fresh from bourgeois schools; 640 were former KMT government employees; over 400 were school teachers and lawyers; 500 had been members of the KMT police and armed forces; 140 were workers; 60 were wealthy capitalists; 50 were landlords; and 40 were merchants. Although the 2,100 former students were potentially revolutionary, roughly 800
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came from feudal land-owning families and a similar number from petty-bourgeois backgrounds; 500 came from middle peasant families; and another 500 had bourgeois backgrounds; 350 came from families engaged in liberal professions; five were from wealthy commer-
cial families. A great number of those admitted to Ke Ta had either been KMT party members or had joined the KMT San Min Chu Yi Youth Corps.

How is it possible to take such a heterogeneous crowd, assembled by such a wide variety of motives, and within six months turn them into a new type of intellectual, devoted heart and soul to learning about the labouring masses? The metamorphosis is not achieved by miracles or miracles, but by hard unceasing logic and patient intensive study. The school does not even aim at turning out com-
petent Marxist theoreticians, which would of course be impossible within the time limit; it restricts its aims to one achievement— to weeding out non-proletarian or anti-proletarian ideology. This is done by taking dialectical and his-
torical materialism as the main focus of study, supplemented by four courses on internationalism, the basic problems of the Chinese revolution, the history of the Chinese Communist Party, and the Party’s major policies. The college is turned into a battleground of ideas, in which the first casualties are "pure" theory and empiricism. Superstition and idealism Wage a losing struggle with the theory of evolution and historical materialism.

The first two weeks of Ke Ta’s curriculum are devoted to survey-
ing the present situation in China, understanding the purpose of Ke Ta’s training course and learning about its new methods of teaching.

The next fourteen weeks are given over to an introduction to diale.
tical and historical materialism. The main text-book for this period is a concise, specially-prepared History of the Development of Society. This takes up such topics as the evolution of apes to man, with emphasis on the role of labour in creating man’s world; the five different modes of production; the class struggle; the difference between socialist revolution and New Democratic revolution; etc.

For the two succeeding weeks, the students study the basic prob-
lems of the Chinese revolution. The following two weeks are spent learning about Communist policy, class struggle, land reform, production, organization of the masses, etc. Then comes a two-week period for studying the basic program of the Chinese Communist Party. The final month is set aside for summarizing up the lessons learned during the preceding five months, analysing the students’ own thoughts in the light of these conclusions, and applying the theoretical principles to the students’ individual lives.

The students tackle these studies in a collective manner. During the second term, the student body was divided into three large sections. (There is also a fourth section for Party members who wish to raise their political level, but the train-
ing program for this section is quite different and will not be dealt with in this article.) Each of the three sections is divided into ten sub-sections, which in turn are divided into ten groups having 20 to 25 students. This is the basic unit in the school, though to facili-
tate study and discussion, groups are again broken up into sub-
groups of seven or eight persons. A group spends most of its waking hours together, thus learning the art of normal life as well as collective study. From the outset, the students learn to think of the progress of the group as a whole, rather than merely of individual achievements within their studies. Not even the most brilliant student can gain commendation unless he demonstrates a desire to help the more backward members of his unit.

Working in brigades like this, the students mutually help each other recognize and uproot the reactionary ideas that they acquired in the old society. Theory and practice are closely interlinked, and each theoretical lecture is followed by a discussion in which the sub-
ject under study is viewed in terms of the student’s individual experiences.

At the end of each period of study, the students sum up the lessons they have gained in writing. These papers are read to the group, and the writer himself determines what grade he should receive. In grading his own paper, each student evaluates his understand-
ing of Marxist theories and applies his theories to his practical work. If in marking his paper, a student ever evaluates his political pro-
gress, others in his group will point out his mistake. If, on the contrary, he is too modest about his achievements, he will also be criticized for displaying political hypocrisies. Thus a system of grading papers by common consent is known as "democratic grading."

The key weapon throughout this procedure of study is Marxist criticism and self-criticism. It is not easy for old-type intellectuals, particularly those from a feudal background, to learn to use this essential weapon for self-improve-
m ent in a correct manner. At first there is often the feeling of being a feeling of one’s fellow-students by softening one’s criticisms. Some students take care to be careful in their criticism of others. For attacking others in a non-
constructive and uncomradely manner. Still others tend to raise off a lot of "selfist" sounding phrases and thus ward off any real analysis of their own ideological shortcomings. However, in a remarkably short time, most students are forced to apply criticism and self-criticism in the correct spirit of seeking the truth, recognizing their shortcomings, and working to improve themselves in order to encourage the one and eradicate the other. It is in this way that the students are gradually becom-
ing able to raise their political level.

An important part of Ke Ta’s retraining program consists of extra-curricular activities. The students are encouraged to volunteer for various kinds of jobs around the school. In addition to keeping school clean and cheerful in various kinds of production, the students have reclaimed 140 sow of wasteland near the school and have raised part of the food they eat. Thus, through their

own efforts, they are able to get rid of the old-style intellectuals’ contempt for manual labour. In this way, they prepare the ideological ground for the students to maintain friendly relationships with the labouring classes.

When the end of the term ap-
proaches, most students are amazed to see how radically different their present selves are from those when they entered school. Here is a typical comment which one student wrote in his diary. "I used to think that men like Napoleon, Hitler, Chiang Kai-shek, etc. wrote history. I myself wanted to be such a person. Now I realize that actually it is the people who determine the course of history. In the final analysis, it was the people who provided me with my education, and I must place my knowledge at their service. I now have only one ambition—to serve the people well. I will be glad to do any work the people’s government asks of me with my whole heart and energy."

Only five of the 6,000 students enrolled in the second term proved capable of standing up to the task. They were supported in their efforts to disrupt the life of the school by stealing from the other students or spreading reac-
tionary rumours. At a mass meeting of the entire student body, they were finally expelled from the school.

But far by the overwhelming number of students were welded into a gigantic force eager to work for society, whereas they might easily have remained a conglomerate of unhappy misfits aimlessly working against society. During the second term alone, 1,578 students acquired a sufficiently strong class standpoint to become eligible for admission into the New Democratic Youth League. Another 155 proved themselves worthy of acceptance as candidate members of the Communist Party. As the term drew to a close, every student publicly pledged “to go where the people send me and to do the work which the people ask me to do.”

Reading His Paper at a "Democratic Grading" Meeting by Y. F.

A plaid above the College Admin-
istration Building bears the Chinese inscription Ke Ming Jang Lu, meaning “The Furnace of Steel,” and people mistake this to find a more apt description for Ke Ta and the similar colleges in other parts of the country that are turning out China’s new cadres.

(Continued from page 28)

The literacy movement has achieved remarkable results in the urban districts. For example, last April, 37 per cent of the 1,600 workers in the Dairen Textile Mill were illiterate. By the end of the year, all of the 310 illiterate men and 280 illiterate women workers had learned from 100 to 200 char-
acters. All of these workers are expected to attain the level of 1,200 characters in 1950. This is enough to prepare workers for newspapers and popular books and with such a foundation, it becomes relatively easy to make further progress.

The literacy campaign in Fort Arthur and Dairen has set an in-
spiring example for the entire nation to follow. Similar move-
ments, though not yet on such an intensive scale, are being organized in many of the old liberated areas. And as soon as the newly liberated areas have attained the objective conditions for such a campaign against illiteracy, they too will follow the lead of the Fort Arthur-Dairen population. Lithuania’s experiences prove that, before too many years, almost every adult “blind man” in China will have opened his eyes.

Practicing Songs for the Evening Party by Y. F.
Grain Estimates Raised

On the basis of a wide series of regional conferences with peasant representatives held last month, it is reported that this year's grain output will top the 1949 figure by 7,200,000 tons, thus surpassing the original government target by 44.5 per cent. Similar conferences with cotton producers have indicated that the 1958 output for cotton can be exceeded by 46.8 per cent, with estimated that the cotton yield will reach 706,000 tons, whereas the government plan had called for 604,500 tons.

The peasants are tackling spring sowing this year armed with a variety of manufactured implements to replace the century-old village-made tools of wood, or, at best, wood reinforced with iron. These new implements include horse-drawn ploughs, harrows, harvesters, ten-wheeled seed drills and other farm machines based on Soviet models. They have been turned out in hundreds in state-owned plants. A former KAMART arsenal in Peking has recently been converted for this purpose. The government is selling these tools to mutual-aid groups for common use on credit.

Food Supply

The food situation in the deficiency areas of China has been basically changed as a result of the resuming of the grain supply throughout the country and the organization by the government of widespread production schemes. A further 600,000 tons of grain were delivered from Manchuria to areas south of the Great Wall during the first quarter of this year. The May and February targets for grain reserves from the Northeast have been exceeded by 5.8 per cent already, but the Northeast is still preparing to send a further 100,000 tons more in April to Peking, Tientsin, Hsiaochou and other cities.

During the same period, the Central People's Government has allocated more than 500,000 tons of grain which is being used as payment for peasants taking part in water conservancy work and side occupations in North and East China.

Owing to serious floods, drought and KMT wrecking and neglect of their work, harvests suffered damage last year in provinces popu-

lated by about 40 million people. Of these some seven million people faced a shortage of food at the end of last year and among them only a small percentage needed urgent relief. For this, the government allotted another 44,000,000 tons of grain as relief food.

With sufficient grain at the disposal of the government and prorogation of supplies throughout the country, the shortage which was developing in those areas has been arrested. All areas have been ordered to ask for surpluses from the Central Government.

The Government Administration Council decreed on April 2 that mills must produce not less than 72 lbs. of edible rice every 100 lbs. of flour, and 81 lbs. of flour from every 100 lbs. of wheat. The adoption of this measure will save 26,000 acres of rice and 26,000 acres of spring wheat. PLA troops in Il, in western Sinkiang province, are cultivating 4,000 acres of land, in addition to raising chickens, sheep, pigs and crops.

March Prices Stable

Food prices remained virtually stable throughout China during the month of March. In fact, market quotations for the period revealed that many cities registered a five to 20 per cent drop in prices of flour, rice and kiaopao (sorghum), which are the staple foods of the Chinese people.

March also witnessed a general reduction in the prices of grain, edible oil, coal and cloth. In Shanghai, parity unit rates fell eight per cent; in Canton, five per cent; in Hankow, six per cent; in Peking, one per cent; in Tientsin, five per cent and in Chianan, eight per cent. The most drastic change occurred in Nanking, where parity unit rates went down fifteen per cent.

Price stability during March was further reflected by a sharp decline in interest rates. The Peking government of the People's Bank of China announced that 50 per cent cut in interest charges on loans and a 44 per cent reduction in interest on deposits, effective April 1. During the month, interest rates dropped 20 per cent in Hankow, 50 per cent in Shanghai and Tsinan and 60 per cent in Tientsin.

For the first time in Chinese railway history, the national railways have managed to balance their accounts and stockpile reserves. This was achieved during the first two and a half months of 1958, despite the fact that freight rates were only about 60 per cent of those imposed by the KMT regime.

PLA Production Drive

Whenever their military duties permit, PLA soldiers turn to production and reconstruction work. Armies in northern Shantung province have already planted 2,000 acres of spring wheat. PLA troops in Il, in western Sinkiang province, are cultivating 4,000 acres in land, in addition to raising chickens, sheep, pigs and crops.

An army division in Manchuria is now at work repairing the Mukden-Fushan highway. Another in Kwantung province is repairing the railway line.

Soviet Ambassador N. V. Roshchin returned to Peking from Moscow on March 26.

China March 26, April 10

On April 2, Commander-in-Chief Chou Teh reviewed a cavalry division in Peking that was being transferred from south of the Yangtze River to Manchuria, where it will combine garrison duty with running a mechanized state farm, as well as a studs farm for breeding cavalry.

International Activities

Foreign Minister Chou En-lai informed the International Tele-

communication Union on March 29 of the appointment of W.F.T.U. chief Chinese delegate to that body. On April 1, the Foreign Minister announced that Li Chia-chu, Chung Chiu-chen of Kowloon and two other Chinese delegates would represent China at the International Broadcasting Conference.

Liu Ning-yi, Vice-President of the All-China Federation of Labor and member of the W.F.T.U. Executive Committee, will head a seven-member delegation to the W.F.T.U. Executive Bureau and Executive Committee sessions scheduled to be held from May 15 to 25 in Budapest.

The May China Federation of Labor and Kowloon workers will send delegates to take part in the May Day celebration in Poland. The Federation will also send representatives to the international conference of the Pakistan Federation of Labour, which will open at Lahore on April 27.

For the first time, the trade of Europe and America would be held in a grand cocktail party given by Mr. Emanuel Sfranco, Hungarian Minister to China. The party was held in Peking on May 12 to com-
memorate the fifth anniversary of the liberation of the Hungarian people. Chinese delegation is now in Budapest to participate in the Hungarian celebrations.

On April 1, the Chinese government announced the appointment of General Yuan Chung-ho as Chinese ambassador to India. The Indian government has named Sadr K. M. Panikkar as its ambas-

sador.

On April 2, Commander-in-Chief Chou Teh reviewed a cavalry division in Peking that was being transferred from south of the Yangtze River to Manchuria, where it will combine garrison duty with running a mechanized state farm, as well as a studs farm for breeding cavalry.

On April 2, in a statement made on April 3, declared that the "Hankou government must be held fully and directly responsible for the present losses incurred by China."

Chinese Plans Damaged

Seven airplanes belonging to the People's Republic were damaged by saboteurs at Kaifak airport in Kowloon on the opening of April 2. The incident occurred in a restricted military zone guarded by British police.

The Hongkong government had prevented the removal of the Chinese planes.

Premier Chou En-lai, in a statement issued on April 3, declared that the "Hankou government must be held fully and directly responsible for the present losses incurred by China."

WALL STREET'S "FRIENDSHIP" TOWARDS CHINA

(Continued from page 9)

imperialists at that moment. Brit-

ish Admiral Lord Charles Beres-
ford once summed up the situation very clearly following the invasion of China. He quoted a memorandum that he had received from a group of British and Chinese business-

men in China, in which they had asked for the drop in the dump- ing of the U.S. in "the world great hearth" of that second-rate power."**

In the spirit of this Open Door policy, American imperialism twice organized international banking groups in 1910 and 1919. It at- tempted to transfer the privileges of other imperialists to this or- ganization, headed by American capital, and in this manner attain hegemony over China. This was the device, for instance, which America attempted to invade Man-

churia on several occasions, both before and after World War I.

The aims of the Open Door policy would be completed, as planned by Chin K. Shek-shin's régime, had it not been for the great re-

volutionary victory of the Chinese people. The slogan of "Open Door" and "Equal Opportunity" thus became the weapons by which the American imperialists prevent-

others from stepping on China while enabling themselves to carry out their financial and economic penetration. John Fook, Secre-

tary of the American Asiatic As-

sociation, said in 1910: "The place which the U.S. occupies in the world, and the place which it should occupy is keenly challenged by every move made towards the dismemberment of China.

Let the fact be evaded or disre-ognized, the American imperialists are now in the position of the U.S. in the "world great hearth" of that second-rate power."**

* * * * *
The Blind Open Their Eyes

Port Arthur-Dairen Literacy Campaign

by Cheng Lien-tuan

For many years illiteracy among the masses has been one of the main handicaps to China's progress. Many people thought that if they could take generations before illiteracy was wiped out in China. The Port Arthur-Dairen area, however, has proved to the world that if one really sets his heart on it, the goal could be attained in a few short years.

The phenomenal achievement of Port Arthur and Dairen was made possible by the efficient administration of the new government, plus the unexhausted enthusiasm and organizational ability of the Communist Party and other anti-imperialist organizations. Equally important was the fact that the richness of mass movement, the strong conviction of anti-feudal and imperialist exploitation which reduced the laboring population to stark poverty — has been one important reason for success.

Living conditions of the bulk of peasants and small working class have already improved in this area so much that literates can soon use and enjoy the fruits of their labors.

In January, 1949, the Port Arthur — Dairen Administration adopted a Two-Year Plan. The Plan's educational program set the goal of eliminating illiteracy in the region by the end of 1950. Workers are expected to acquire a minimum vocabulary of 1,200 characters while students should know 900.

A Port Arthur and Dairen Literacy Campaign Committee was formed in March, 1949. Branch Committees were organized in every county and town, and sub-committees set up in various sub-districts. The committees immediately set out to work to organize masses, to recruit and train teachers, and to compile popular reading material.

Since then, 1,566 literacy classes have been organized and 1,176 literacy schools established. The committees have also set up 222 cultural-centres, 92 cultural clubs and eight cultural halls, all of which are designed to promote adult education. A total figure of 246,000 illiterate people had enrolled in space-time studies. There are 7,782 teachers engaged in giving literacy courses, of whom only 298 are professional teachers. The rest are government and Party cadres or better educated peasants and workers who can help their colleagues.

The literacy campaign is proving tremendously successful everywhere. But in Lichikow, which has won the title of "model village in learning" for three consecutive years, the movement has led to particularly noteworthy achievements.

Lichikow is situated set far from Port Arthur. The village contains 77 households and 465 people. Before the 1949 literacy drive, there were 116 illiterates, of whom 14 were men and 81 were women.

At first these peasants were quite reluctant to join the literacy movement. Some had practical difficulties; housewives, for instance, were engaged in the work of taking care of their children and household duties. Some were just disinterested; since they had managed to get along until then without knowing how to read or write, they did not feel it was worth the effort to change. Still others were convinced that they just did not have the time to learn after the duties of Chinese characters. Li Teh-me, a young, hard-working peasant, once remarked: "If they want me to plough and dig, I'll be glad to do it. But now they want me to go to school. No, that's too hard for me!"

The cadres of Lichikow village were experienced in handling literacy movement. In their eager

ness to have the village build a good reputation, they resorted to orders, persuasion. The village leader posted a notice ordering the peasants to attend the reading classes. Each absentee was threatened that the punishment, be it a fine of one catty of millet. About 40 peasants began to attend the classes, but as long as the punishment was merely simply ignored the order, preferring to pay the fines.

Wang Hsien-tang, secretary of the Lichikow Communist Party branch, grew to the amount that something was bound to happen, and went around asking the villagers' opinions. Meanwhile, he and his comrades carefully studied the directives issued by the Party and the government. The branch discussed that the cause of all their troubles was inadequate preparatory mobilization of the people.

On the following day the village cadres, to whom the peasants complained about the difficulties, met for a discussion. At the meeting the peasants recounted the bitter experiences and the misunderstanding between illiteracy. As more and more people spoke of their experiences, the peasants began to realize how harmful illiteracy was and how necessary it was to learn to read.

"Let's begin to learn and suffer no more" — this was the peasants' attitude after a few such meetings.

Then more village-wide discussions were held to prepare the literacy drive. When the villagers were co-operative, problems became much easier to solve. Several elderly women volunteered to take care of their neighbours' children during class time. Many husbands offered to help their wives with a part of their household chores. Thus it became possible for the illiterate women to attend the classes. There were still 19 women, however, who could not guarantee regular attendance for the home study group was organized for them. When possible, the teachers would visit their homes to give them special lessons. In a few days this special study group met to check each other's progress.

The problem of regular attendance was much simpler for the men. Once they became determined that they had the ability to learn to read and write, all of them enrolled in the literacy classes. Even a cripple decided to attend when his neighbours offered to carry him to and from the school every day.

Thus Lichikow plunged into a heated literacy campaign. While out working on the field, the peasants would drill each other in the reading and writing. When they had just learned a new character they would teach it to the others near him. Now when the villagers met each other, they would give each other the peasants' traditional greeting: "Have you eaten yet?" The new greeting was: "How are your studies coming along?"

When the Port Arthur and Dairen Literacy Campaign Committee reviewed the progress of the movement at the end of spring, it awarded the village the title of "model village in learning." This gave new impetus to the villagers' study enthusiasm. Keen competition started among various groups and classes, between the bands and wives, neighbours and relatives. That summer Lichikow earned its new recommendation as a "model village."

When the year drew to a close the 96 peasants enrolled in the regular literacy classes had mastered of from 500 to 1,200 characters. Chiang Shu-lan, a peasant woman who had been elected "model student" for three successive years, could now read and write 1,700 characters.

Among the 19 women of the special home study group, five had learned 500 characters; eight knew 400; and six knew 300 characters.

Marked changes occurred in Li-
chikow after its inhabitants be-
came literate. When the literacy movement began in the spring, the daily newspapers and tabloids of the local newspapers. Today almost every family takes its own newspaper. The peasants learn more and more about what was going on outside their own locality, their outlook on life became broad-
ened and their lives enriched.

The political role of the villagers has also been raised considerably. When the government called on the peasants to plant trees last autumn, the villagers fulfilled their quota of 1,969 trees in one day's time even before the village cadres started their mobilization work. The peasants showed the same politi-
cal enthusiasm even when it came time to pay their agricultural taxes. Long before the pay-
ment was due, they were paid, sorted and stored taxes for the government. They paid in advance and showed no re-}
Scholars and Land Reform

During the winter vacation which began at the end of January, 800 professors and students from Peking universities volunteered to help carry out land reform in the city's suburbs. A hundred of artists and writers also joined in the work, including the painter Peo Hsu, the woodcut artist Li Hwa, the cartoonist Yeh Chien-yu and the playwright Tsao Yu.

These intellectuals, after a short course in land reform policy, were divided into 65 work teams and were sent out to assist the regular staff of land reform cadres. They worked in more than 100 villages around Peking and helped 600,000 peasants overthrow the old feudal system. They took part in mobilizing the peasants and explaining land reform policies to them; they joined in the work of classifying peasants and landlord families; they went to the fields to measure the land and they helped the peasants work out an equitable and democratic distribution of land, farm tools and equipment; and they also drew up new title-deeds. On the side, they helped the peasants organize their own cultural activities, put on entertainment performances for the villagers and conducted short winter-study classes.

Notable as their contribution to the land reform was, it was not half as remarkable as the ideological changes which these intellectuals underwent as a result of their close contact with the peasantry. All returned to their campuses with a heightened understanding of the Chinese revolution, the peasant class problem and the class struggle.

Lei Hsi-tang, formerly a right-wing professor of history at Tsinghua University, has published a summary of his land-reform experiences in which he wrote:

"During the whole of my past, I was completely at sea. But I never realized that I was drifting aimlessly and that my academic research work, carried on only for its own sake, was futile. Had it not been for the liberation, I would have spent all my life in this manner, and, what is worse, I would have remained snug and contented.

"After liberation, I began to accept the new way of life intellectually. But it was as if I were looking at the new society from a long distance away. Emotionally, I was reluctant to plunge into the new life.

"But a sudden change came over me during my close contact with actual life in the course of my recent land reform work. Although I did not realize exactly when it happened, I discovered that I had entered the new society."

Fung Yu-lan, a philosophy professor at Tsinghua University, was assigned to work in a village near Luhuchiao (Marco Polo Bridge), where the first shot of the Anti-Japanese War was fired in 1937. Professor Fung later confessed that when the peasants confronted the fact complemented by the old landlord, his unclear class sympathies momentarily tricked him into feeling sorry for the landlord. In the end, however, he realized that it was only proper for 622 farm tools possessed by three landlord families to be distributed among the 209 peasant families whom they had previously exploited.

Writing in the magazine Study, Professor Fung said: "The Chinese proletariat, by arming the peasantry, has overthrown the feudal system which has lasted more than 2,000 years. This is the most fundamental part of the Chinese revolution. By joining in the land reform, I also joined in China's revolution."

Youth Cultural Train

On March 25, a gayly decorated train pulled out from the Peking railway depot. This was the Youth Cultural Train, sponsored by the Ministry of Railways. For the next half-year, this special train will bring entertainment to railway workers, railway guards and peasants living near the railway line.

Most of the 60-old cadres comprising the cultural troupe are members of the Youth Art Theatre. The remainder are representatives of the Railway Ministry, the Mobile Cultural Supply Station (set up by two public bookstores and two publishing houses to provide reading material for outlying places) and the News Photographers Bureau of the Press Administration. There were also some cameramen from the Peking Film Studio and a mobile projection unit sent by the North China Motion Picture Company.

The Youth Cultural Train will provide entertainment in the form of plays, concerts, modern ballets and motion pictures. During its tour, it is scheduled to travel along the Peking-Hankow Railway, the Lunghai Railway, the Tientsin-Pukow Railway and the Tchewho-Shihhaihsianguau Railway.

The announcement that three Sino-Soviet joint-stock companies are being formed to speed up the industrialization of China has excited loud cheers throughout China. The three new companies were provided for in agreements signed at Moscow on March 27 by Chinese Ambassador Wang Chichung and the Ukrainian Delegation led by Comrade A. Y. Vyshinsky. Two of the companies will handle the prospecting, production and refining of non-ferrous and rare metals, oil and coal gas in Sinkiang province. The third will develop civil aviation in the country.

In commenting on these agreements, many newspapers and popular leaders stressed the contrast between former economic agreements with imperialist governments, which led only to further penetration of China by foreign monopoly interests, and the present agreements, which help China develop her resources along lines beneficial to her own national interests.

The Peking People's Daily said editorially: "This is inspiring news to us in the present difficult period of our economic reconstruc-
tion. These agreements form a good beginning in an important matter — the utilization of foreign capital and technology for the development of our economic re-
construction on the principle of absolute equality and mutual benefit. After comparing the char-
acter of these recent agreements with the economic pacts which the traitorous KMT regime had made with foreign powers, the editorial concluded: "While the imperialists are busy bombing, blockading, subjugating and exterminating the Chinese people, while we have not the capacity to develop production on a large scale, the Soviet Union helps us to realize what we cannot realize by ourselves."

Shao Li-wei, former KMT am-
bassador to the U.S.S.R. and currently a member of the Government Administration Council of the Central People's Government, wrote: "After all, we can readily imagine that the imperialists will be filled with envy and indignation at the announcement of these three joint stock companies. It is evident from their attempt to pursue their futile attempts to spread more rumours. But facts are facts, and none of their slanders can deceive the people of the world. As a member of the democratic wing of the KMT, I am very happy over this event because it conforms to the last will of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, which said that China and the Soviet Union should march abreast in order to attain victory."

Kao Chung-min, Chairman of the Northeast Bureau of the Democratic League, characterized the three agreements as "further concrete evidence of the solidarity between the Chinese and Soviet people, as well as showing American mis-
sions that Soviet assistance is not as substantial as". He added: "The Chinese people have learned from painful experience that American aid can only bring untold disasters and death. Only Soviet help is extended with genuine friendship and therefore brings peace and prosperity to the Chinese people."

Heiao Ming, Vice-Chairman of the Peking Trade Union Council, regarded the agreements as a "concrete expression of the further development of the fraternal friendship between China and the Soviet Union."

Wu Liang-chih, Chairman of the Preparatory Committee of the Fukien Trade Union Council, said: "The agreements have inspired the working class of Fukien province, and they will intensify their struggle against the blockade and air bombings."

Sino-Soviet Economic Agreements Widely Acclaimed

The Kung-yang Daily, organ of the Democratic League, said: "In the past, the Soviet Union has rendered a great deal of economic assistance to the People's Demo-
cratic countries in Western Europe. Her for-
exit policy has been based on respect for the independence and sovereign rights of those nations. The economic co-operation between the Soviet Union and China advanced in the technique in production and management has played a decisive role in the economic development of those countries. Now that the three agreements have been signed, we are certain that China will benefit in the future from Soviet economic co-operation just as the people of East Europe."

The Sinkiang Daily, published in the provincial capital, Thews, de-
clared: "The work of industrial construction is now to be carried on in this province will give the politi-

cal, economic and cultural life of our people a great shove for-
ward."

Kamalidin, a Tarart leader and head of the Mining Department of the Sinkiang People's Government, commended: "The agreements will solve the problem of the vast amount of machinery and money needed to develop the rich mineral resources of Sinkiang."

General Chao Chih-chung, former KMT Governor of Sinkiang who is now Vice-Chairman of the North-west Military and Political Coun-
cil, declared that these three agreements have fulfilled the long-
cherished aspirations of the people of the Northwest."

General Tao Chih-yueh, who led the uprising of the 700,000 KMT soldiers in Sinkiang last September that paved the way for the peaceful liberation of the province, said: "The development of Sinkiang's rich natural resources with the help of Soviet scientists, technicians and ma-

chinery in order to accelerate China's industrialization will be beneficial to the Chinese people."

Sheng Chih-shu, a believer in the theory of the logic of objective reality, explained that the spread of the revolution cannot be divorced from the development of production. He held that the revolution must be waged in the field and that the masses must participate in the work."
of today's workers and peasants, it is also mean-
ningful to know what their basic aspirations are for the future. We hope that in seven or ten years, there will appear in China tens of thousands of highly educated intelligentsia from the workers and peasants. This is an indispensable condition in China's economic, cultural and national defense construction, together with the intelligentsia from other social classes who are likewise determined to serve the masses, the students, the peasants and the soldiers. The Ministry of Education of the Central People's Government plans to set up a Chinese People's University in 1950, (see page 5 of People's China). The University will be open to the students of which will be enrolled from workers and peasants. The educational system and the courses offered in this institute will all be on new lines. It is based upon the needs of the country, the masses, the workers and peasants and the construction. In this work, we are especially grateful for the great assistance given us by our Soviet friends.

Secondly, the government is drawing up a plan which provides that beginning from 1950 all educational institutes, factories and military units throughout the country will help in the popular establishment of the mass education of workers and peasants. Cadres with workers or peasants background, as well as officers and men of the People's Liberation Army, will be offered a chance to install education in the branch of middle school by attending such short-term schools. After graduation, they may continue their studies in universities or colleges.

In addition to the above-mentioned measures for opening the school doors to workers, peasants and soldiers, steps must be taken to change the policy of the past which was completely divorced from the tasks of national reconstruction. Educational departments must work closely with industrial, agricultural, communication and financial administrative organs before we can turn out systematically the kind of personnel required by various construction works. To wipe out the phenomenon aptly described as "graduation unemployment," and to assist or guide the various organs to establish senior or junior polytechnical schools to retrain the personnel they need.

Reform of Intelligentsia

To reform the old intelligentsia by giving them political education is another important work. The people's cultural and educational construction of China requires a common effort on the part of intelligentsia from all revolutionary social strata.

Old-time intelligentsia and technicians must be properly educated so that they may serve the cause of the revolution. The declared policy towards intelle-
telligentsia, as decided by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, is to win over, unite, educate and reform them. For this purpose, instructions have been given to inaugurate various short courses for technical colleges or training schools for helping the intelligentsia to build up a revolutionary outlook on life, and an ideology of dialectical materialism and historical materialism. Over 200,000 persons have participated in such courses since May, 1949. After having completed their studies, they were distributed to work in different parts of the country. Work is now being widely and enthusiastically studied by our people. The study of politics has been regarded as an indispensable part of their daily life by the masses. There are many factories, teachers, artists, scientists and especially the young intelligentsia. Their usual curriculum includes the history of development of society, political economy, the principal task of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and the works by Comrade Mao Tse-tung. Meanwhile, with the same enthusiasm they discussed current events.

The breaking up of their past illusions about American imperialism and of their ignorance regarding the Soviet Union demonstrated that their re-education gave tangible results. The majority of the intelligentsia has come to understand the value of Chinese culture and the threat and bane which the workers and peasants face as such ought to line up together with workers, peasants and soldiers. Yearnings for the highly developed science and culture of the Soviet Union have set the Chinese youth as eager to master a new language with enthusiasm. There are many Russian classes all over the country. And in Peking and Mukden, Russian is being taught on the air. In Peking alone, there are no fewer than 7,000 listeners to the Russian lessons.

Literature and Art

Literary and artistic creation and activities have long assumed a very important role in the people's revolution of China. The Chinese people regard art as an important weapon in ideological combat and as a means of holding the masses together. The coining of representatives of literary and artistic workers of all China opened at Peking in July, 1945. It was attended by 600 writers, playwrights, movie workers, artists, musicians and dancers. They discussed the course the people's literature and art of the new China ought to follow, and helped in the birth of a unified organization representing the literary and artistic workers of the whole country to help enforce its leadership in literature and art. The Central People's Government has set up a Ministry of Cultural Affairs, headed by Mao Tung - a well known literary and artistic worker.

The speech by Comrade Mao Tse-tung at a literary and artistic discussion group at Yenan in 1942 is being taken by Chinese literary and artistic workers as the fundamental guide to their literary and artistic policy. The art must serve politics, the workers, peasants and soldiers. Art must be well integrated with the masses and its chief task is its popularization among the workers, the peasants and the soldiers. The popularization of art and its elevation to higher levels must be well combined. The way to elevation is not to start from a low to a higher level but under the condition that it is to be brought to a higher level; and that it is to be brought to a higher level on the basis of popularization.

It has been on these guiding lines that the Chinese artistic movement, since 1942, has become widespread among the workers and peasants in the liberated areas. This not only enabled literature and art to acquire richer contents and more lively forms but also made it a medium reflecting the present struggle, the spirit of the working people, as well as an effective medium to educate the workers and peasants. Through such artistic movements many talented and creative artists from the workers and soldiers are greatly, inspired and many of them are fully developing. They worked hard to create and reform various Chinese national artistic forms. The most popular and prevalent forms are the yangko dance and the watusi drum dance. In the armed forces, soldiers wrote down their own poems or songs on the buttis of their rifles. The soldiers organize their own theatrical groups and present plays about their life. In the factories, there are theatrical groups and clubs organized by the workers themselves. Artistic movements are being developed by the workers. Literary efforts and plays by workers frequently appear in the leading newspapers and periodicals. On May 1, last year, 48 plays written by workers were staged simultaneously by workers in all Peking factories. Over 3,000 workers either played roles in these factory plays or took part in their performances. In Tientsin and the Northeast, these plays were staged on a still larger scale. What the artistic movement has accomplished in boosting the morale of the workers has been clearly demonstrated. The prevalent organizational form of artistic activities is the artistic working group, which is a composite organization embodying activities such as acting, dancing, music, art and literature. These artistic circles are to be found in all the leading cities and in the troops. Other travelling groups give performances to the villagers in the rural districts.

Linked with the Masses

The creative activities of our writers are closely linked with the living struggles of the masses, which fact constitutes one of the major conditions which help develop realism brilliantly in the field of literary art. This group of outstanding writers, who have lived together with the peasants and soldiers over a long period of time, were deeply involved in the struggle of the land reform and of the army. Therefore, the writers have been producing many works about the land reform work and the War of Liberation.

The new task of creating writing in the future will serve the interests of restoring and developing industrial production. We have planned to send an additional group of writers to the factories, farms, and army in 1950. Some of the best Chinese literary works have already been introduced to readers in the various revolutionary countries. Meanwhile, foreign revolutionary literary works especially those written by Soviet writers, have won a large audience among the enthusiastic Chinese readers. It is worthwhile to mention that throughout the War of Liberation, Simons, Zinoviev, Kornilovich, Tolstoy, Gorky, Front and Beck's Fear and Untruth and the other works have been the most popular books with the army, and some of which have been placed on the list of "Required Reading" for army cadres; popular editions of these books were printed, and are regarded as the most practical textbooks for military education. That is why the names of these writers and of the books has been given to the familiar and respected names to the men of the PLA.

Soviet Cultural Delegation

Last year at the time of the establishment of the Central People's Government, the Soviet Cultural Delegation headed by A. Fadayev arrived in China. Hundreds of thousands of the Chinese people gave them a warm welcome in Mukden, Tientsin, Nanking and Shanghai.

With fraternal love and sincere friendship, they gave valuable assistance and inspiration to the work of Chinese culture, art and science. Soon after¬ wards came the party of writers and artists from the USSR, which visited the various provinces organized by cultural workers were sent from China to the Soviet Union and East Europe to at¬ tend the World Congress of the Defenders of Peace and the ceremony commemorating the Soviet October Revolution.

The exchange of visits by such cultural bodies has proved to be of vital significance for the flow of international culture. The Central People's Gov¬ ernment is planning to send more scientists, artists and journalists to study and to make inspection tours to the Soviet Union and East Europe. It is also planned to exchange students with the various countries.

The development of the cinema is an important work for the people's art. As early as 1946, we already had our own cinema enterprise in North¬ east China. The state-operated studio has improved its place in the country's motion picture production. Under the rule of the KMT, three-fourths of the pictures screened were American movies, a great many of which were melodrama, war melodrama, yellow sensationalism and fascist ideology. After the liberation of the entire country, this situation had been gradually but steadily altered. In 1950 the state-owned enterprises and co-ops produced 448 new works, and translated into Chinese sound rec¬ ording 40 Soviet features.

In order to popularize the cinema among the workers, peasants and the army, another major aim
is to organize a great number of movie-screening units to work in the factories, villages and the army. The Central People's Government plans to organize 700 such screening teams in 1950 so as to let the workers, peasants and soldiers enjoy films at very low prices or even without charge. We are especially thankful for the enormous material and technical aid our Soviet friends have extended us in building up our cinema industry.

On the Science Front

We are at our weakest in research work in natural sciences. The reasons for this are obvious; the imperialists and their lackeys have been unwilling to have, and have done their utmost to prevent, the development of technique and science in China. China has many scientists of world renown, who could not find adequate equipment and opportunity to carry on their research work under KMT rule. Every effort has been made by the Central People's Government to change this. The Academy of Sciences of China was set up last year. Under it there are various research institutes. Kuo Mo-jo, famous scholar and Vice-Premier of the Government Administrative Council, leads the work of the Academy.

Scientific construction in New China is basically directed towards the co-ordination of the research work of natural sciences with industrial, agricultural and national defence construction. Science in the new China will work for the cause of peace and for China's prosperity. We shall reform out-of-date doctrines and methodology. We shall help the scientific workers to accept the views and methods of dialectical materialism in their application to the research work in natural sciences, and by which they will build up science genuinely and closely related to the life of the people. It is therefore necessary to promote smooth co-operation between the Academy of Sciences and the various departments of economic construction, between the scientists and the workers and peasants. It is also necessary to popularize scientific knowledge among the working people and the peasants. The Central People's Government has set up a Bureau for Popularizing Science under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs for this purpose.

The establishment of the Michurin Society should be specially mentioned in regard to the work of introducing new scientific knowledge of natural sciences to China. This Society studies, disseminates and applies to Chinese agriculture the doctrine of Michurin.

China is a country with vast resources. To exploit these resources, advanced science and techniques as well as scientific workers in large number are needed. It is an extremely difficult and gigantic work for which we are in urgent need of the friendly assistance from the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies.

U.S. AID — THE SACO WAY

(Continued from page 12)

A seriously-wounded prisoner said angrily: "Don't fire wildly like this. I'll come out so that you can aim properly." He stood up, stumbled to the door and placed his head against the mouth of a sub-machine gun. A second later he was dead.

An infant's wail rose above the sound of groans and gun-fire. A nine-month-old baby was crying with fear in the arms of its dead mother. A year-old child lying on the floor nearby also began to cry. "Finish them off, for God's sake!" someone said angrily. The firing ceased for a moment while two guards entered the cell and bayonetted the infants.

Before leaving, guards armed with pistols walked through the rooms and fired shots at anyone who still seemed alive. Then the executioners poured gasoline about the cells and set them afire.

Six prisoners, miraculously managed to survive the massacre and to escape from the burning building. Three of these later turned up in Chungking.

Approximately 300 persons were killed at SACO's headquarters on November 27. The victims included General Huang Hsuan-sheng, who had been jailed for 12 years because he led a Manchurian resistance movement against the Japanese; Chou Chun-shih, renowned mathematician and former president of the Tung Chi University in Shanghai; Wang Pai-yu, former publisher of the New Szechuan Daily; and many students and teachers, artists and journalists, workers and peasants. Preliminary reports show that 500 persons were executed at the SACO camp in the two months before Chungking's liberation.

Evidence Left Behind

In their panic-stricken flight from the PLA, the SACO murderers did not take time to destroy all evidence of their inhuman crimes. Half-burned bodies were strewn about the charred ruins of Refuse Pit. The huge burial trenches near Pai's Mansion were covered with only a very thin layer of soil. Many of the bodies removed from the burial pit were still shackled and handcuffed. One comparatively new set of handcuff used bore the inscription: "Patent 1581451 — 1372857 Made in U.S.A. The Peerless Handcuff Co., Springfield, Mass."

The SACO agents had only time to blow up two warehouses. The remaining eight were found to be crammed with American-made equipment ranging from armoured cars to bullets. All of these instruments of torture and death had been sent to China under the guise of "American aid."

In fact, the whole history of the Sino-American Co-operation Organization provides an unforgettable documentary record of the kind of "aid" and "co-operation" which the American imperialists offered to China.