

# PEOPLE'S CHINA



A NEW TIBET IS ARISING

Chang Kuo-hua

10  
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# PEOPLE'S CHINA

A FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE

Editor: Liu Tsun-chi

*CHRONICLES* the life of the Chinese people and reports their progress in building a New Democratic society;

*DESCRIBES* the new trends in Chinese art, literature, science, education and other aspects of the people's cultural life;

*SEEKS* to strengthen the friendship between the people of China and those of other lands in the cause of peace.

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## SUPPLEMENT:

China Supports the Proposal of the Congress of the Peoples for Peace for a Five-Power Peace Pact; The Chinese Women's Movement Since 1949—a Report by Teng Ying-chao

## FRONT COVER:

May Day Celebration in Peking, 1953. On the tribune of the Tien An Men from left to right: Teng Hsiao-ping, Lin Po-chu, Chou En-lai, Liu Shao-chi, Peng Chen, Chairman Mao Tse-tung, Chu Teh, Li Chi-shen.

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# Peaceful Negotiation vs. War

**T**HE governments of China and the Soviet Union, representing 700 million people, have officially expressed their full agreement with the address of the Congress of the Peoples for Peace, calling on the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France to open negotiations and conclude a pact of peace.

This is a development of extraordinary importance and hope for all humanity. It affirms in the clearest and most direct manner that the world's two biggest states are pledged to seek through their foreign policies the same goal that is pursued by the most universal people's movement in history. The important statements were made in reply to the messages from the International Committee of the Congress of the Peoples for Peace to the governments of the Soviet Union and China. Replying on behalf of the Soviet Government, V. M. Molotov, the Foreign Minister, said:

"The Soviet Government is convinced that there is not a single controversial or unsettled question which could not be solved by peaceful means on the basis of mutual agreement of the interested countries."

In his reply China's Foreign Minister Chou En-lai stressed a basic principle of the foreign policy of this country:

"The Government of the People's Republic of China is convinced that, provided there is genuine good faith to seek peace, it should be and is possible to settle every dispute between the nations by the method of peaceful negotiation."

This principle has been consistently carried out in action. Only a few weeks ago, jointly with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, China made new proposals which have already led to the successful exchange of sick and injured prisoners of war in Korea and the resumption of negotiations to end the bloodshed there. Her initiative has provided a practical basis for the settlement of the Korean hostilities which constitute such a grave threat to the peace of Asia and the world.

In internal affairs, too, the Chinese people bend all their energies to peace. A proof of this is the conclusion of the enormous task of lifting the wartorn national economy within three short years to a level equalling or surpassing the highest prewar peaks. And since January this year, China has been engaged on her first five-year plan of peaceful industrialisation.

Assured of support by two such states as the U.S.S.R. and China, the world movement for peace is growing as never before. The peoples are more confident of their ability to avert war. They are determined to bring about a peace pact of the five Great Powers as a step of the greatest importance towards securing peace.

The Soviet and Chinese Governments are in step with the will and interests of the peoples. They are ready to negotiate to settle all outstanding international problems by peaceful means.

The peoples insist on a similar answer from the other powers concerned, from Britain, France and the United States.

# The Seventh Trade Union Congress

A NEW stage in the history of the Chinese labour movement is marked by the Seventh All-China Congress of Trade Unions which opened in Peking on May 2. Having carried to victory the revolution which destroyed the old society, having rehabilitated and transformed the wartorn economy, the workers of China have begun the large-scale planned industrialisation of the country, on the basis of which Socialism will be built.

The last national congress, the sixth, was held in Harbin in August, 1948. It mobilised the workers to complete the overthrow of the rule of the lackeys of imperialism in China and to establish the New Democratic people's republic.

Historic changes have taken place. Today the organised working class leads the people's state. Guided by its own Communist Party, it has overcome all difficulties in a series of mighty nation-wide productive emulation movements. In restoring the country's economy, it has greatly contributed to the repulse of American invasion in Korea and to the building of China into an invulnerable bulwark of peace. It has produced a veritable army of labour heroes—223,000 men and women who are the standard-

bearers of progress. Its material conditions, cultural and political level have advanced tremendously. The present Congress is attended by delegates from 10,200,000 trade union members—a quadruple increase since 1948.

This Congress will chart the course to be followed by the Chinese working class in the period of large-scale peaceful construction.

It will intensify the mobilisation and development of the initiative, talents and abilities of the working class. In unity with the whole people, it will exert itself to fulfil China's first five-year plan. In doing so, it will follow the path successfully pioneered by the Soviet Union. It has the assurance of success, because it works within the flourishing camp of peace, democracy and Socialism headed by the Soviet Union. It draws confidence from the growing strength of the working class all over the world. The fraternal delegates who have come to the Congress from eighteen countries testify to the unity and support of the working class everywhere.

The decisions of the Congress, mobilising the Chinese people, will enjoy the support of all peoples inspired by the ideals of social progress and peace.

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# Deeds Mean More Than Words

An abridged text of the "People's Daily" editorial, April 29, on President Eisenhower's foreign policy speech

ON April 16, U.S. President Eisenhower made a foreign policy speech. It was considered by the press of many countries as an answer to recent statements of the Soviet Government concerning the possibility of a peaceful settlement of outstanding international issues. The Soviet paper *Pravda* on April 25 carried an important editorial on Eisenhower's speech.

Enumerating the universally-known and obvious facts, *Pravda's* editorial discussed the two different foreign policies pursued in recent years by the Soviet Union and the United States in regard to major international problems. It clearly expressed the Soviet Union's willingness to hold serious and businesslike discussions of the given problems through direct negotiation and, when necessary, within the framework of the United Nations. The *Pravda* editorial convincingly proved that the practical efforts made by the Soviet Union aimed at seeking a peaceful settlement of various international problems are consistent and sincere. It is yet another expression of the Soviet Union's consistently peaceful foreign policy. That this editorial has immediately evoked a markedly favourable response from world public opinion is only natural. We Chinese people are in complete agreement with the editorial and fully support it.

*Pravda* declared: "Deeds mean more than words." This is a truth borne out by facts. The editorial pointed out that Eisenhower's statement: "We seek, throughout Asia as throughout the world, a peace that is true and total," and "none of these issues, great or small, is insoluble—given only the will to respect the rights of all nations," had evoked a favourable response. At the same time, *Pravda* could not but point out that "the President's words about

peace and the assertion that not a single outstanding issue is insoluble, however, contradict other statements he made in the same speech." Citing the facts which have emerged from the various international issues, the editorial proved that the five "precepts" determining U.S. foreign policy as described in Eisenhower's speech are only empty assertions which have not been borne out by deeds. Whether it is on the Korean question, the German question, the Chinese question or other questions, the United States has given and is giving very little consideration to these "precepts."

Now President Eisenhower's own words may be quoted. He said: "The test of truth is simple. There can be no persuasion but by deeds." At the moment, world public opinion is centred on the Korean question. People, first of all, should demand that both sides to the negotiations prove by practical deeds the sincerity of their desire to achieve a Korean armistice and the peaceful settlement of the Korean question. The Soviet Government has always promoted and supported the efforts of the Chinese and Korean peoples for achieving a peaceful settlement of the Korean question. The proposal put forward recently by China and Korea for the settlement of the entire P.O.W. question so as to bring about a Korean armistice received immediately the support of the Soviet Union. On the basis of this proposal, General Nam Il, our chief delegate, further put forward, when the meeting of the full truce delegations resumed at Panmunjom on April 26, this side's concrete measures for implementing our proposal for settling the entire question of repatriation of all P.O.W's as a basis for consultation and discussion by the delegations of both sides. This proposal made obvious concessions to the U.S. side with regard to procedure, time and methods.

It is obvious that our proposal is another deed—most reasonable and concrete—designed to bring about a cease-fire in Korea. Everybody can see that with regard to this proposal—which aims at removing differences between the two sides on the question of P.O.W. repatriation and seeks to bring about a cease-fire—what the U.S. side should do is to make a careful study of it and seek an agreement; it should not, as it has done in the past few days, persist in dismissing and rejecting the proposal. This is an important opportunity to achieve peace by concrete deeds. It is a real test which the U.S. Government simply cannot evade.

As pointed out by *Pravda*, Eisenhower has caused general surprise by making no mention of the Chinese question in his speech. According to Eisenhower, there are five “precepts” governing the conduct of the U.S. Government in world affairs, of which one is: “Any nation’s right to a form of government and an economic system of its own choosing is inalienable,” and another, “Any nation’s attempt to dictate to other nations their form of government is indefensible.”

However, contrary to these “precepts,” the U.S. President in his State of the Union message on February 2, 1953, openly declared that the Kuomintang gangsters in Taiwan would be used to raid the Chinese mainland. The U.S. Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles, went even further and openly and wantonly supported the Kuomintang remnants in Taiwan and eulogised the U.S. blockade and embargo against China.

The *Pravda* editorial stressed:

Soviet leaders did not make their appeal for the peaceful settlement of international problems conditional on preliminary demands on the United States or other countries whether they adhere or not adhere to the Anglo-American bloc.

But Eisenhower, in his speech, struck an attitude by raising many demands as if there could be no peace in the world if other countries did not comply with these demands to the satisfaction of the U.S. Government. As to whether other countries likewise have demands worthy of America’s consideration, the U.S. President does not care to mention.

Eisenhower’s attitude is not helpful, but, on the contrary, it will be greatly detrimental to seeking “peace that is true and total.”

In the *Pravda* editorial, all the peace-loving people of the world have now found a key to the understanding of international problems. In this editorial, they can clearly perceive the unswerving peace policy to which the Soviet Union has consistently adhered. In his speech at the fourth session of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., Comrade G. M. Malenkov said:

The Soviet policy of peace is based on respect for the rights of the peoples of other countries, big and small, on observance of the established rules of international intercourse; Soviet foreign policy is based upon strict and unswerving observance of all treaties concluded by the Soviet Union with other states. There is no disputed or undecided issue today which cannot be solved peacefully by mutual agreement between the countries concerned. This applies to our relations with all states, including our relations with the United States of America.

This clear-cut peaceful foreign policy of the Soviet Government has been receiving ever-widening sympathy and support from the world public. It has now again become a powerful support and inspiration to all people demanding the settlement of disputed and outstanding international issues through consultation and to all countries willing to coexist peacefully. There is no doubt that the Chinese people wholeheartedly support the peaceful policy of the Soviet Union and will further the cause of world peace and friendly co-operation among nations through the unity of the two countries.

At present, China and Korea are continuing firmly their efforts for an armistice in Korea and the peaceful settlement of the Korean question. We fully understand that our efforts will be of great benefit to the promotion of peace and security in the Far East and the whole world. Our efforts fully conform with the interests of the Chinese and Korean peoples, of all peoples whose sons and daughters are fighting in Korea and of all countries that want to see an end to the Korean war. There is no doubt that our efforts will receive all just aid and support.

# A New Tibet Is Arising

Chang Kuo-hua

**T**WO years ago, on May 23, 1951, the Agreement between the Central People's Government and the Local Government of Tibet on Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet was signed in Peking. Since that historic day the Tibetan nationality has been freed from the fetters of imperialism and returned to the Chinese family of nations. May 23, 1951, marked a new page in the history of Tibet; it is a great victory of Chairman Mao Tse-tung's national policy.

Tibet—known as the “Roof of the World,” standing an average of 12,000 feet above sea level—is China's southwestern borderland. Although the territory is about as large as both Germany and France combined, it is thinly populated. *Tsinko* (a species of green rye), wheat and peas are grown along the Upper Brahmaputra River (the Yalutsangpo) which runs over 1,000 km. across the southern part of the territory. The northern part is a vast stretch of steppe—an ideal pasturing area. There are huge virgin forests and rich yet untapped mineral deposits.

The Tibetans have a long history. Friendly relations between Tibetans and Hans (“Chinese”) date as far back as A.D. 641, when an

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Children of the Lhasa primary school perform a harvest dance at a rally celebrating New China's third anniversary

emperor of the Tang Dynasty married his daughter, Princess Wen Cheng, to the prince of Tibet. The Tibetans became a part of the Chinese multi-national family. Relations between them and the other fraternal peoples remained friendly until the coming of the imperialist powers which penetrated into China during the past one hundred years. The aggressive forces of imperialism entered Tibet, sowing discord between the Tibetan and other nationalities. They succeeded, for a period of time, in creating a distance between the nationalities; in Tibet itself internal disunity was deliberately fostered. The result was long years of poverty and backwardness for the Tibetan nationality.

It was only after the victory of the Chinese people's revolution that a bright future

opened for all nationalities, including the Tibetans. The Tibetans are well aware of this. That is why when the People's Liberation Army marched into Lhasa, Tibet's capital, on September 9, 1951, in accordance with the Agreement, it was warmly welcomed by all, lama and layman alike. Thanks to the inspiration of Chairman Mao Tse-tung, great leader of China's many nationalities, internal unity in Tibet has at long last been achieved. In April, 1952, the tenth Panchen Ngoerhtehni\* returned to Lhasa and met the Dalai Lama\* in the latter's residential monastery — the Potala Palace. This historic meeting ended the exile of the Panchen Ngoerhtehni which began twenty-eight years ago when the ninth Panchen Ngoerhtehni had to leave Tibet as a result of imperialist intrigue. Now that Tibet is again united, the Panchen Ngoerhtehni is once more back in his residence, the Tashi-Lhumpo Monastery, in Shigatse, southern Tibet.

The Agreement signed two years ago was made within the framework of the policy towards nationalities as embodied in the Common Programme—a policy of national equality, friendship, unity and mutual assistance. It ensured the Tibetan nationality the full rights of national equality and regional autonomy, and aid in developing its political, economic and cultural life and improvement of the people's livelihood.

### Agreement Carried Out

During the past two years Central People's Government personnel and members of P.L.A. units entering Tibet have consistently adhered to the principles of the Common Programme and strictly carried out the Agreement. The existing political system and the established status, functions and powers of the Dalai Lama and Panchen Ngoerhtehni have been maintained.

Among other things the Agreement provides that various reforms in Tibet should be

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\* Both the Dalai Lama and the Panchen Ngoerhtehni (known abroad as the Panchen Lama) are the leaders of Lamaism in Tibet. There is no separation between religious and governmental powers; they, therefore, are also political leaders. Lamaism holds that each Dalai and Panchen is the reincarnation of the previous Dalai and Panchen. The present Dalai is the fourteenth and the Panchen the tenth.—Ed.

carried out by the Local Government of its own accord, and that when the people raise demands for reform, they should be settled by consultation with the leading personnel of Tibet. This principle has been meticulously observed. An instance of non-interference with the existing system in Tibet is shown in the application of the land policy there. While land reform has been completed in those parts of the country inhabited by the Hans, it has not yet been introduced into Tibet. As with other national minorities the question of land distribution will be decided by the Tibetans themselves. It is premature to speak of land distribution in Tibet. Whether there will be distribution or not in the future is a question the Tibetan people will themselves decide.

As with the system of government, so are the customs and traditions of the Tibetans respected. As elsewhere in China, the policy of freedom of religion is carried out in Tibet. The Tibetans have their own religion, Lamaism, which is a form of Buddhism. Lama monasteries and temples are given protection and all religious activities are being carried on as usual.

Central People's Government and P.L.A. personnel keep perfect discipline. They never infringe even in the slightest degree on the interests of the Tibetan people. In accordance with the terms of the Agreement they are all maintained by the Central People's Government so that not a single needle or thread is taken from the local people. During harvest time, P.L.A. men help in the busy work of the farms. This aid springs from true friendship and is given without a demand for returns in any form. An example of the just policy adopted by the P.L.A. in its dealings with the people is shown in the fair rates of payment for services done, like transport and so on. Naturally the discipline and exemplary conduct of both Central People's Government personnel and the P.L.A. have won them universal respect and united them even more closely with the Tibetans.

To help the Tibetan nationality develop its economy and improve the people's life, the Central People's Government and the P.L.A.



People eagerly waiting their turn for free vaccination at a P.L.A. clinic in Tibet. Health measures introduced by the P.L.A. are freeing Tibet of the age-old scourge of smallpox and other endemic diseases

have done much in the fields of economy, public health, culture and education. State trading companies began in 1951 to purchase wool—one of the main products of Tibet—at prices 100 per cent higher than those offered by foreign markets. Last April a contract for the purchase of the 1952 wool crop on these favourable terms was signed with local wool merchants. Good contracts at fair prices have meant increased incomes for a good proportion of the population, for more than 40 per cent of the local people depend on the sale of animal products—mainly wool—for a living.

Interest-free loans have been given the peasants and handicraftsmen in twenty-one *tsung* (counties) and *hsieh* (districts below the county level) in the vicinity of Lhasa. In the past two years, the amount of such loans, including those made in the area of Shigatse (the second most important city in the territory), and Gyantse (a large commercial centre) came to more than 500 million yuan. Several thousands of families of poor peasants and handicraftsmen were thus given enough funds for production. It is expected that in 1953 the total amount of interest-free loans will be as large as 3,900 million yuan.

An important step in the development of trade and the general promotion of economic

prosperity has been the establishment of branches of the People's Bank of China in Lhasa, Shigatse and Gyantse. The supply of foreign exchange by the Bank has not only kept commerce going but further expanded it. Steps have also been taken to encourage trade between Tibet and the rest of the country. Private merchants dealing in the expanding tea trade are given assistance by the Central People's Government. Tea is one of the necessities of the Tibetans. Owing to the fair price policy of the Central People's Government the price of tea now is only a third of what it was before the peaceful liberation.

Business is now brisk. The volume of trade in Lhasa is 50 per cent more than before liberation. Merchants nowadays make profits of between 15 and 30 per cent; the result has been an expansion of commerce and increased investment in trade on the part of the nobility.

### Better Health

Economic and cultural backwardness—a result of imperialist aggression—was responsible for the lack of medical and sanitary services in Tibet. There was a high incidence of smallpox and other infectious diseases; the death rate was high. Disease was a constant menace to the people and was the immediate reason for the population remaining at its low level. To remedy the situation and to increase the population, the Central People's Government and the P.L.A. gave special attention to the problem as soon as Tibet was liberated. Medical, epidemic prevention and veterinary corps were immediately formed to fight disease. Some went deep into the countryside and pastoral regions, bringing medical services to the people of remote areas.

The P.L.A. units set up clinics at the localities where they were stationed and gave free medical services to the people. In August, 1952, a people's hospital was set up in Lhasa.

Up to the end of March this year, the number of patients (including lamas and noblemen) visiting the hospital was more than 27,000. The number of consultations (exclusive of first visits) totalled 70,000. In the past two years the Central People's Government spent 13,000 million yuan on health measures (this includes the cost of building a serum factory in Lhasa). The steady expansion of health services is getting the better of the scourge of infectious diseases and gradually bringing about an improvement in the general health conditions of the people.

The development of education in Tibet is one of the essential conditions for the exercise of national regional autonomy and the carrying out of construction projects. With this object in mind, the Central People's Government founded in August, 1952, a primary school at Lhasa which now has an enrolment of 619 boys and girls. The language of instruction is Tibetan. The Han language is only offered as an optional course. The overwhelming majority of the staff are Tibetan intellectuals and lamas. Students' religious beliefs and customs are respected, and they have a free choice of careers after their graduation. The school met a long-felt need, and naturally it gained the support of the people from all walks of life, including lamas and laymen. It received further encouragement when the Dalai Lama last October presented it with one of his private parks, 200 million yuan and other gifts. The Dalai Lama demonstrated his support even more when he entertained the entire staff of the school to a banquet, an honour rarely given.

For the training of Tibetan and Han cadres, the Area Headquarters of the P.L.A. opened a school for the study of the Tibetan language; many well-known Tibetan scholars are teaching at the school at the invitation of the P.L.A.

### **P.L.A. Self-Sufficiency**

The P.L.A. is not only self-sufficient in food but has undertaken projects of land reclamation and water conservancy to build Tibet anew. P.L.A. men have already reclaimed 30,000 *mou* (5,000 acres) of wasteland and cut 120 *li* (40 miles) of irrigation channels. The

bumper harvest of wheat, *tsinko* and vegetables gathered by them last year was an inspiring example to the Tibetan peasants to raise crop yields. Owing to backward farming methods, only small crops were gathered in Tibet, and this gave rise to the misconception that better yields could not be obtained because of the poor quality of the soil. After seeing for themselves the big P.L.A. harvests—not only of cereals but also of vegetables and fruits—new confidence grew in the Tibetan peasants. Their labour enthusiasm raised, they followed the example of the P.L.A. in reclaiming wasteland and in farming technique. In one *tsung*, for instance, over 1,000 *mou* (about 167 acres) of wasteland were reclaimed by the local people last year.

### **National Equality**

The principle of equality of the nationalities is fully practised in Tibet. When, in accordance with Article 15 of the Agreement, the headquarters of the P.L.A. Tibetan Military Area was set up by the Central People's Government, two Tibetans, Kaloon Ngabou Ngawang Jigme and Gaoke Pengchojaochi were appointed vice-commanders. Complete equality exists between men of the P.L.A. and Tibetan local troops.

Facts during the past two years prove that the Agreement on Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet is correct and has the close support of the Tibetan people. The Dalai Lama, the Panchen Ngoerhtehni and the broad masses of the Tibetan people all regard as their prime responsibility the full implementation of the Agreement. On New Year's Day this year, the Dalai Lama, in his sermon at the Ta Chao Temple, stressed that "the Tibetans and the Hans must unite and the Agreement on Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet must be carried out."

The Tibetan people's love of the motherland and Chairman Mao Tse-tung is growing daily. Many Tibetan delegations have made the long journey to Peking to express their respect and love for their great leader. They have seen for themselves the great construction sites and the autonomous regions of the fraternal nationalities such as the Inner



When the news of the peaceful liberation of Tibet reached the Sikang-Tibet Plateau

Woodcut by Niu Wen and Li Shao-yen

Mongolian Autonomous Region, which has set an inspiring example to them.

Tibet is no longer isolated. Occasions such as national festival days and victories on the Korean front are enthusiastically celebrated in Lhasa and other towns. Tibetans are taking part in the world peace movement. They gave warm support to the Peace Conference of the Asian and Pacific Regions and the Vienna Congress of the Peoples for Peace. Among the Chinese delegates to these two meetings were Tibetans. The sister of the Dalai Lama, Tsejenchoma, was a member of the Chinese delegation to Vienna. She said on her return to Peking: "Having come back from Vienna, I am even more impressed by the great strength of the world camp of peace and democracy; I love my motherland even more. I am fully aware of the decisive role of my country in the defence of world peace."

Understanding and support of China's great ally, the Soviet Union, is growing in Tibet. During the Sino-Soviet Friendship

Month held at the end of last year, lamas and laymen held forums to mark the occasion and further the understanding of the significance of Sino-Soviet friendship. On the death of J. V. Stalin—great guide of the peace-loving peoples of the world—in March this year, the Dalai Lama held a prayer service attended by 20,000 lamas.

The realisation of Chairman Mao Tse-tung's national policy and the implementation of the Agreement on Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet has gradually eliminated the misunderstandings between the Tibetans and the other nationalities caused by imperialist intrigues and brought about new relations of friendship, unity, co-operation, mutual assistance and brotherly affection. Unprecedentedly close unity among the Tibetans themselves has also been achieved. Under the leadership of the Central People's Government and Chairman Mao, the Tibetan nationality is marching steadily forward, and with the assistance of the fraternal nationalities, a happy and prosperous new Tibet is arising.

# The Young Strength of the Nation

China's youth are throwing all their energy and enthusiasm into the building of their country

**Liu Tao-sheng**

*Secretary of the Central Committee of the China New Democratic Youth League*

**T**HE young men and women of China are throwing all their youthful energy and enthusiasm into the building of New China. They played a heroic part in the liberation of their country and in the rehabilitation of its industry and agriculture. Today, guided and reared by Chairman Mao Tse-tung and the Communist Party of China, they are working in high spirits for the realisation of China's first five-year plan. The prospect of industrialisation of their motherland, with a socialist future ahead, has inspired them to new efforts and high enterprise.

With the rapid progress of rehabilitation and reconstruction of industry in the last three and a half years, thousands of youth have come from the countryside or from the schools to the factories and construction sites. Of the 3,600,000 industrial workers in this country in 1952, about 1,500,000 of them were young workers. Since last year the number of young workers in some industrial districts has exceeded 50 per cent of the labour force. In some branches of capital construction, from 70 to 80 per cent of the labour force are young workers. The overwhelming majority of the geologists and surveyors today are young newcomers to the profession.

Youth with its keenness and spirit of initiative has brought new strength to China's industrial fronts. The China New Democratic Youth League, the leading organisation of the young people, and the All-China Federation of Democratic Youth, are intensifying their work to mobilise the masses of the youth for the nation's industrial construction. At its second

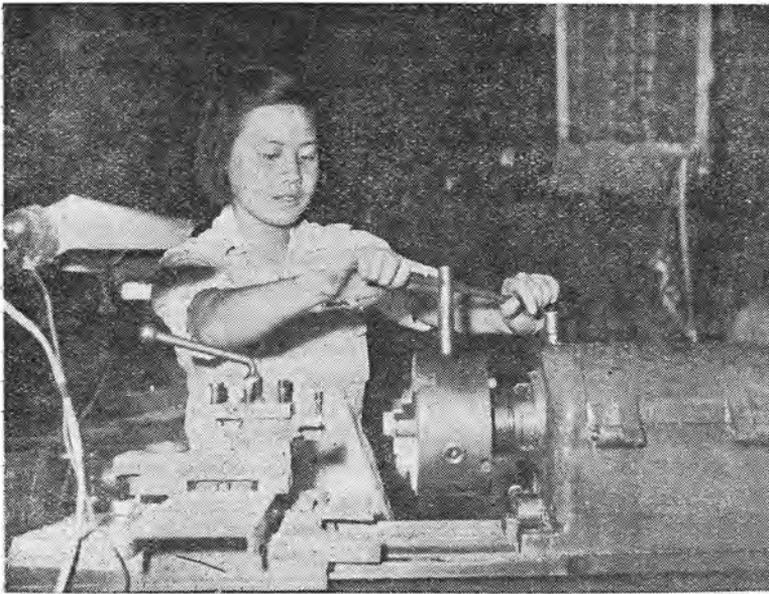
session in November, 1951, the Central Committee of the League adopted a resolution calling on the youth of the country to respond to Chairman Mao Tse-tung's call to increase production and practise economy. The very first item on the agenda of the second National Congress of the Youth League scheduled to meet this June will be the question of mobilising the youth on the fronts of economic construction. This will also be discussed at the coming National Congress of Youth also scheduled for June.

The work of League committees in industrial areas has been strengthened. There are now 560,000 League members in factories, mines and enterprises.

The League has also made a great effort in mobilising members and non-members among the youth to work in capital construction. As a result of these efforts, combined with those of other organisations and the government, during 1952 in the Northeast alone, 4,500 League members went to posts on capital construction sites. Capital construction proved attractive, too, for some thousands of young demobilised people's fighters and college graduates.

## **Notable Role in Production**

The Youth League organisations today take as their main task the expansion of production, the training of young workers and the raising of labour productivity. They have played a notable role in carrying out these campaigns in industrial construction and have



**Chin Chao-ying, a lathe-operator of the North China Agricultural Machinery Works who has raised her productivity of labour 108%**

won a secure place for themselves in the people's esteem. The Youth League has become a shock brigade uniting the mass of young workers for higher production.

An all-youth brigade of the Dairen Chemical Laboratory was recently cited as a "model youth brigade" for setting seven new production records in three months. Headed by Youth League member Liu Chao, the brigade improved its working methods, remodelled its tools and increased its all-round efficiency so that it saved 358 million yuan and 8,000 man-days for the state. This is only one of thousands of such examples.

In this drive for better results, the young people working on the construction sites and industrial enterprises are paying the closest attention to the study of the advanced experience and technique of the Soviet Union. The recent statements of Chairman Mao Tse-tung on the question of learning from the Soviet Union have given new impetus to this study. With the aid of the Soviet experts, young workers have mastered the use of the most modern Soviet machines, such as electric cranes and grabs, lathes, coal-cutters, and drills.

Apart from the already well-known labour models like Cheng Hsi-kun, who initiated the

movement for capacity haulages and 500-kilometre-runs a day on the railway, there are scores of young innovators like Chang Ah-mao of the Chishuyen Railway Works in Kiangsu who, after a study of Soviet high-speed cutting methods, raised labour productivity on his lathe ninefold.

Study among the youth in industry is a constantly growing mass movement. By energetic study, they have shortened their period of apprenticeship in some cases from three years to just a few months. To meet the tremendous demand of the youth for industrial knowledge, the administrative branches of various enterprises have established many technical schools,

classes and research groups. Contracts have been signed with excellent results between skilled technical workers and their apprentices. The former pledge to do their utmost to teach well, and the latter to learn.

### **Raising Output, Reducing Costs**

The young workers have also played an outstanding role in the patriotic emulation movement "to increase production and practise economy." In fulfilling state plans, they have raised labour productivity, lowered production costs and raised the quality of output. Junior engineer Pei Chuan-sheng of the Tientsin Steel Plant improved the method of overhauling the furnaces there so they can now turn out 40 smeltings in place of the former 22 before needing a general overhaul. Another contrivance of this young engineer reduced the power consumed in each smelting by 360 kilowatt hours. Youth League member Liu Shuming, a fitter at the Fengtai Cement Works near Peking, succeeded in making welding rods which had previously been imported from abroad. This not only reduced production costs but saved foreign exchange for the state.

Members of the New Democratic Youth League and young workers have put forward thousands of rationalisation proposals and

made numerous inventions which have been popularised on a nation-wide scale. They have also waged uncompromising struggles against all forms of bureaucracy in production and any other conditions hampering industrial advance.

Many young labour models have emerged. Of the 2,400 industrial labour models of Shansi Province, 715 are youth. On the railways, 18,780 of the 81,000 members of the New Democratic Youth League were elected "labour models" and given other commendations last year.

Here are a few of the achievements of these famed young labour models: Kuo Faming's team scored a new record by tunneling 74 metres in a month in a new shaft at the Pingan Coal Mine in Fuhsin; Kuo Shou-yun created a new and more efficient method of making through-connections on long distance telephone calls; Wei Yu-hsi doubled his productivity by reducing the time taken for setting the lathe. All such advances are widely popularised. These young workers have become examples for all the youth on the production fronts of the nation.

### On the Agricultural Fronts

Youth, numbering one-fourth of the total agricultural population, has played an important role on the fronts of agricultural production.

China is following the road pointed out by Chairman Mao Tse-tung of developing mutual-aid teams and agricultural producers' co-operatives as a means of encouraging China's scattered, small-scale farms to adopt methods of collective farming leading finally to large-scale socialist agriculture. During the past three and more years, the movement to form various types of mutual-aid teams and agricultural producers' co-operatives has made tremendous progress. In North, Northeast and Northwest China, where the movement is more advanced than elsewhere, 60 to 70 per cent of the peasants have already joined such teams and co-operatives, and members of the Youth League have been in the forefront of the movement.

About 3 million of the over 4 million members of the New Democratic Youth League in China's villages have joined agricultural pro-

ducers' co-operatives and various forms of mutual-aid teams. In the older liberated areas about 80 per cent of the members of the League and 50 per cent of the village youth as a whole have joined these teams and co-operatives; in the more recently liberated areas, about 50 per cent of the League members have joined them. The youth are everywhere among the most active in pushing forward the movement. Fifteen per cent of the leading groups in the mutual-aid teams and agricultural producers' co-operatives are members of the New Democratic Youth League. This active and enthusiastic work for the interests of all the peasants has assured the League of the popular support and praise of the broad masses of the people.

The youth on the farms are a specially active force in the patriotic movement to raise the level of production and per-hectare yields. In six counties of Heilungkiang, Kirin, Shantung and Chekiang Provinces, over 80 per cent of the New Democratic Youth League members have joined this emulation movement. Young men as well as women have been in the forefront of the movement to master and publicise new agricultural production techniques. In four provinces in the Northeast, 200,000 young peasants who last year received training in agricultural classes sponsored by the People's Government raised their crop yields considerably. Many of them became "bumper crop models." Chen Yi-keh, a young model peasant of Chekiang Province, improved the system of payment in his mutual-aid team and thus enhanced its productive enthusiasm. Chi Ching-shiu, a young woman labour model of Hunan Province, succeeded by scientific cultivation in raising 1,000 cabbages of rice per *mou* on hillside land. These are only two of many young model farmers, who, by applying advanced agricultural methods, by exemplary cultivation and by taking timely precautions against pests, not only raised record crops but also helped their mutual-aid teams achieve similar good results. They sparked the interest of all the peasants in trying out new, more efficient ways of doing things.

### Set a Good Example

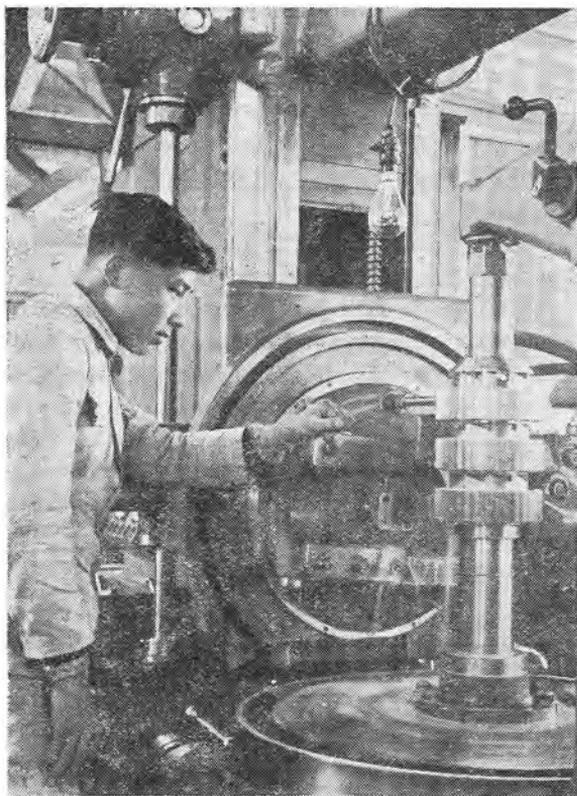
The young peasants and especially their most active part, the members of the Youth

League, are active assistants of the Communist Party in bringing political knowledge and understanding to the peasant masses and inspiring them with a new sense of patriotism and internationalism. They have set a splendid example of observing the regulations and discipline of the mutual-aid teams and agricultural producers' co-operatives, in protecting the interests of the collective and the state. They have shown in many ways how they are ready to put their own individual interests in second place in favour of the wider interests of the group.

Hundreds of thousands of youths have enthusiastically and heroically participated in the gigantic water conservancy projects on the Huai, the Yellow and Yangtze Rivers. Over two million youths have participated in the work to harness the Huai River alone. Countless youths have shown themselves model workers there. Chin Hsiu-lan, a labour heroine,

saved 702,000 work-days by inventing a new method of dredging river silt.

These achievements of China's youths on the production fronts are inseparable from the education given them by the Chinese Communist Party and the People's Government, which show constant concern for their welfare. In addition to restoring the existing schools, the People's Government has founded many new higher educational institutions and special schools for workers and peasants. The number of students in technical schools for cadres for industry and agriculture has greatly increased. In 1946, 18.9 per cent of the students in higher educational institutions graduated in civil engineering; today, this figure has risen to 40.43 per cent. In Northeast China alone, for example, 160,000 workers received special technical training last winter. The great majority of these were young people. The children of workers and peasants who were denied opportunities to study in the past are now admitted to all schools. Many model workers and peasants have attended the short-term schools for workers and peasants: Ho Chien-hsiu, the young model textile worker who discovered a new method of cutting down wastage of cotton; Chao Kuei-lan, the young heroine who, at the risk of her life, saved her factory from destruction during an accidental explosion; model worker Chiao Yu-yen of the famous all-youth No. 1008 locomotive crew of the Harbin Railway Administration (the former Chinese-Changchun Railway Administration), who set a national record of 352,871 kilometres safe running over a period of three years up to April last year; Tien Kuei-ying, China's first woman locomotive driver, and Chin Hsiu-lan, the labour heroine of the Huai River project, are just a few examples of the outstanding young people who have benefited from these study courses. All this tuition and incidental expenses are paid for by the state.



**Eighteen-year-old Tung Ping-fang, after one year's apprenticeship, can operate this gear hobbing machine made in Czechoslovakia**

"Study well!" said Chairman Mao to the youth on all fronts of endeavour in industry, agriculture and construction. China's young people are working hard and studying hard, readying themselves to carry through the construction of their motherland as she advances through New Democracy to Socialism.

# Congress for Victory

## Our Correspondent

**I**N the great Huai Jen Tang hall, in the old "Forbidden City" of the emperors, sit over eight hundred representatives of China's working people. The hall is historic. It was here, in 1949, that the People's Republic of China was born and the Common Programme adopted. Now it is the site of the Seventh All-China Congress of Trade Unions, the first to be held since the liberation, the congress of a class that has won victory and leads the state.

Like the work of the Congress, the eyes and thoughts of the men and women who have gathered for it, are turned towards the future. They have met to discuss how the working class, the great creator and transformer, will change China from an agricultural, industrially undeveloped country into a nation of advanced industry, powerful and prosperous. Nonetheless—sitting here among them—one cannot help thinking of the past, of other congresses held under quite different conditions, of thirty years of bitter struggle and monstrous obstacles overcome, of the fiery tests which have made this class unconquerable.

### Glorious History

The First Congress. The year, 1922; the place, Canton. The 162 delegates represent 200,000 trade union members. Here, at the very outset, the Communist Party, the workers' own, takes the leadership. It is here that the Party and the class forge bonds that will never be

severed, that the mass organisations of the working class gain perspective, set their sights towards the liberation of the nation from imperialism, in the van of the entire people.

The Second Congress. 1925, Canton. The number of union members represented: 540,000. Behind them are grim and bloody battles, the Peking-Hankow Railway strike and the militarist massacre of the workers on February 7, 1923; and also a great victory, the successful anti-imperialist general strike in Hongkong.

The Third Congress. 1926, once again in Canton. The tide of revolution, and of labour organisation, is rising. Unions with a total of 1,241,000 members send delegates. The current task: participation in the Northern Expedition of the people's forces to overthrow both militarism and imperialism. Workers are taking up rifles and joining the revolutionary army. They are going into the countryside to organise the peasants, the majority of the people, to take part in the common task.

The Fourth Congress. 1927, Wuhan. The delegates sent by 2,900,000 workers have known both victories and defeats. Chiang Kai-shek, and with him the big bourgeoisie, have turned over to the imperialists, breaking the national-liberation alliance. Mistakes have been made. The full difficulty of the revolutionary struggle has become clear.

The Fifth Congress, 1929, Shanghai, is held underground. Most trade unions have been destroyed and only some forty delegates can attend. Reaction rejoices in its triumph. In its eyes, the revolution of the Chinese people has been smashed forever. But the faith of the Party, the class, does not waver. They seek and find ways to continue and expand the struggle. Circumstances, however, are such that there is no other congress for almost twenty years.

The Sixth Congress, 1948, Harbin. Twenty years of civil war and imperialist invasion have passed. The fascist Axis has been defeated. The guns of the People's Liberation Army are thundering towards the Yangtze, pulverising Chiang Kai-shek and his imperialist backers. In the interim, the working class has formed an alliance forever with the 400-millioned peasantry, led a legendary struggle against many enemies, united the whole people. The 518 delegates represent 2,830,000 organised workers. The task set by the Congress: to speed the War of Liberation to victory and establish a people's state. This is done.

And now the Seventh Congress—in the workers' and the people's own capital—after the victory—after the three-year effort of restoring and rebuilding from the ashes of war—after the peasantry, through its alliance with the workers, has won its dream of land—in the first months of industrialisation. The delegates represent 10,200,000 trade unionists.

### **New People; New Tasks**

Some workers in the hall are old, their faces and bodies bearing the marks of privation and struggle. Others are young, erect, without wrinkle or stoop. But all are people whose lives and prospects have changed. All come as masters: the young woman who



**Speaking on behalf of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, Liu Shao-chi addresses the Seventh All-China Congress of Trade Unions**

has broken all production norms set by engineers; the man, recently an ordinary worker, who is now director of his factory; the many who wear the medals of labour heroes. They sit in the brilliantly decorated hall in simple blue work-clothes. In all their eyes, which the Communist Party has opened to the future, there is the same clear, steady and joyful look. They sit calmly, applaud vigorously but briefly. They are not spectators but builders. Behind those eyes are the brains and thoughts of workers, practical, measuring the job to be done.

Among these Chinese toilers sit fraternal delegates from many lands, from the World Federation of Trade Unions and eighteen individual countries. There are Soviet workers, who have traversed the path on which China is embarking, whom the Chinese workers affectionately call "elder brothers." There are workers from the People's Democracies, glad to be among their Chinese allies. There are workers from colonial and semi-colonial countries, standing on the threshold which China has already crossed. And workers from cap-

## Achievements of China's Trade Unions

China's trade union organisations are now completely unified under the All-China Federation of Labour. With a total membership of 10,200,000, organised in its 180,000 basic organisations, the A.C.F.L. has in the main organised the entire Chinese working class.

Trade union organisations have helped the managements of various enterprises in establishing 16,277 spare-time schools. Over three million workers study in these schools and 535,000 have become fully literate. There are also nearly half a million workers studying in spare-time technical classes set up with the help of trade unions throughout the country, while the number of workers studying full time in technical schools amounts to 56,000. One hundred and twenty-four thousand workers have been promoted to technical and administrative positions, and among them 7,800 are now factory directors or deputy directors.

By the end of 1952, the wages of workers and office employees in state enterprises were generally 60 per cent to 120 per cent higher than in 1949. Wage standards had also gone up in private enterprises.

Labour insurance was introduced on a nation-wide scale in 1951, for all public and private enterprises employing 100 or more workers. Labour insurance in China is financed entirely by the managements or owners of enterprises.

There are now over 2,000 sanatoria, rest homes, creches, special nutrition canteens, over-night rest homes, homes for the aged and other collective welfare undertakings established either by direct state expenditure or the labour insurance funds. Workers' housing conditions have been greatly improved. In 1952 alone, the state appropriated over 2,860,000 million yuan, to build living quarters for one million workers.

italist countries, aware of how much the victory of the Chinese workers contributes to the joint strength of world labour. In those earlier congresses, in the 1920's, there had also been foreign delegates. In the Chinese working class tradition, proletarian internationalism and ardent patriotism have always stood side by side. But how different today from those years. Then, China was a hope and a promise. Today, the promise is fulfilled, a banner of victory standing side by side with the great flag of October, 1917. And these blue-clad Chinese workers have planted it, are holding it aloft. No wonder the foreign delegates look at them,

their class brothers, with such warm and intimate feeling.

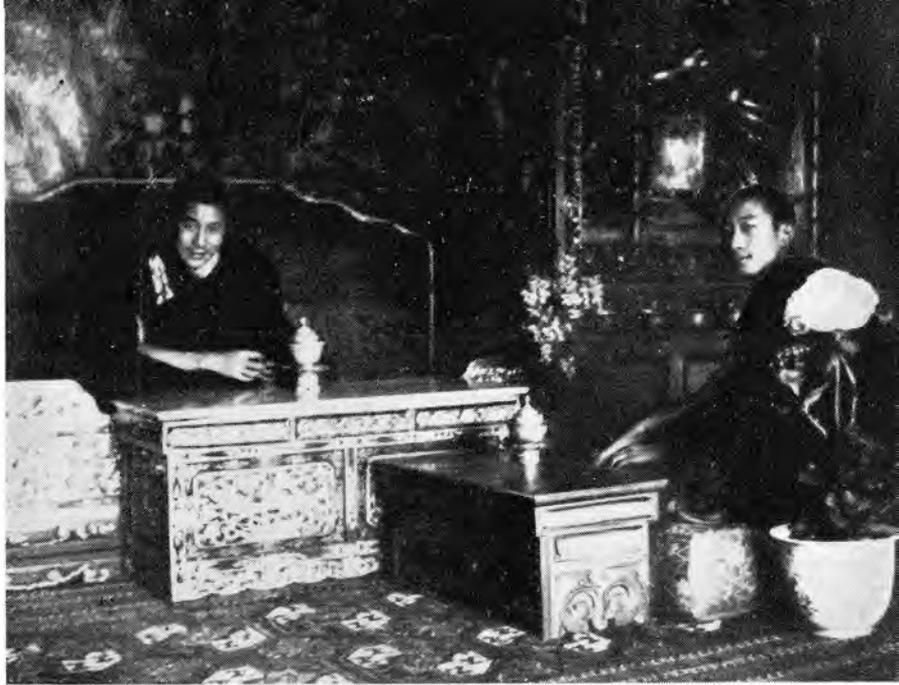
The members of the presidium are elected. They mount the rostrum under the portrait of Chairman Mao Tse-tung, leader of the Party that is the brain and will of the nation's workers in their great effort to change their country and their life.

The Congress begins.

The builders are discussing how to give their best to the work of industrialising China—home of a quarter of mankind.

# UNITY IN TIBET

The peaceful liberation of Tibet has brought national freedom and internal unity to the Tibetan nationality as one of the great family of the Chinese nation. This is the basis of the progress now being made to a happy, prosperous life



The historic meeting between the Dalai Lama (left) and Panchen Ngerhthelni in Lhasa, April 28, 1952, when the latter returned to Tibet after many years' estrangement caused by imperialist intrigues



Panchen Ngerhthelni (centre) goes on a visit to the Dalai Lama

National dances in front of the traditional residence of Panchen Ngerhthelni at the Tashi-Lhumpo Monastery in Shigatse, in southern Tibet



# MAY DAY IN PEKING

500,000 people took part in the great demonstration in China's capital to celebrate International Labour Day



Chairman Mao Tse-tung and Vice-Chairman Liu Shao-chi on the tribune at Tien An Men



Delegations from foreign trade unions and other foreign guests of honour on the reviewing stands



Workers of the Changhsintien Railway Works pass Tien An Men with models of their products





Chairman Mao Tse-tung, leaving the tribune at the end of the demonstration, returns the greetings of representatives of visiting cultural troupes from Mongolia, Poland and Korea



The first columns of the demonstration cross the square with portraits of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and the leaders of the Communist and Workers' parties of the world

Representatives of the national minorities of the Northwest in the demonstration



Students cheer Chairman Mao as they pass the tribune

The marching columns of the Young Pioneers



Due for repatriation, Reginald F. Roberts, (right), a British P.O.W., says good-bye to his chum Ronald A. Cocks



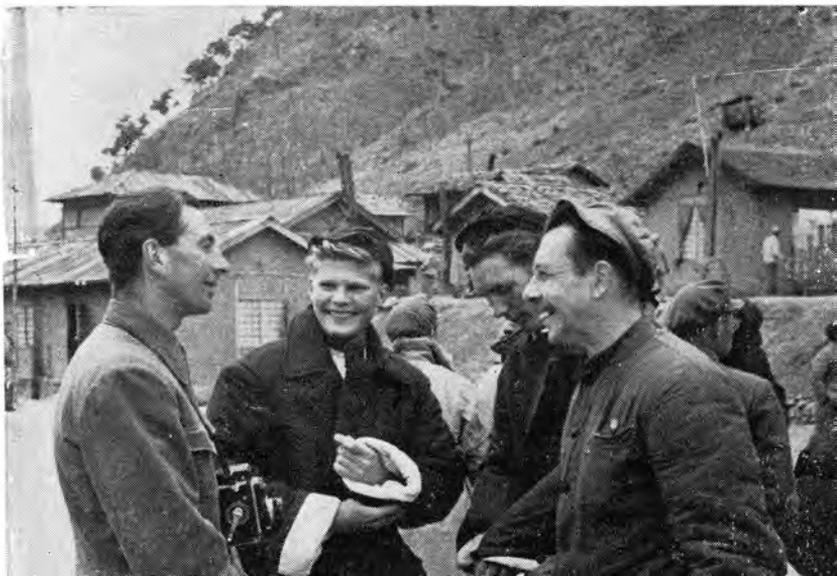
An American P.O.W., Robert W. Shaw, reads the latest news from home before his repatriation



## GOING HOME!

U.S. and British and other sick and injured P.O.W's happily gathered from various camps at Pyoktong on the first stage of their journey home twenty-four hours after the signing of the agreement for repatriation on April 11

Alan Winnington, London *Daily Worker* correspondent, chats with three of his countrymen, Raymond W. Fish, (second from left), and Arthur Calveley, (third from left), who are going back to England, and P.O.W. Ronald A. Cocks, (right), who will stay on in the camp until the armistice is signed



# A May First Full of The Joy of Life

**Fernard Leriche**

*Editor-in-Chief of "World Trade Union Movement"*

**T**HERE are words in every day use whose meaning appears to be quite clear. And then one suddenly discovers that one has not, after all, grasped their full significance or evocative power. In People's China on this first of May 1953, we have relearned the meaning of the words "masses" and "joy."

For what more appropriate word than the "masses" can one apply to this great human tide, homogeneous and fraternal, that at the stroke of ten on this May Day, surges forward before Tien An Men, the Gate of Heavenly Peace?

One does not count what is so immense. One does not count the waves of the ocean. And it is of the ocean that one thinks of here. Of the ocean's force. Of its freshness. Of the roar of the surf resounding in the long cheers which rise towards the man whose Marxist thinking has led one of the oldest and, at the same time, most downtrodden people of the world into this spring-time of renaissance which heralds the dawn of Socialism.

"The mast of the ship of New China is appearing on the horizon beyond," Mao Tse-tung has said.

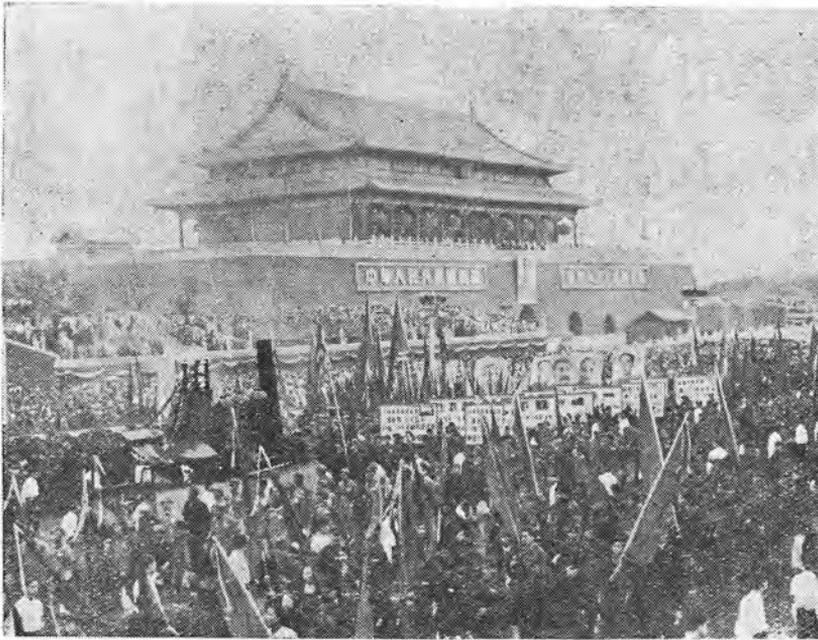
The material forms of the new China appear here together with the ideas that have gripped the masses, advancing along a shining path from which nothing can deflect them.



**"How they laugh on this first of May..."**

Here come the serried ranks of the railway workers bearing a miniature train. Here are steel workers carrying a model of a blast furnace. Here are peasants waving flowering branches. And all this means: "We want to turn our country into an industrial power; we want to liberate all the productive forces of factories and fields so as to ensure our continued well being!"

The art workers advance, carrying a sculptured group of a worker, a peasant, and a soldier of the People's Liberation Army. They mean: "We want to put our art and science at the service of the people whose unity we celebrate!"



"Here are steel workers carrying a model of a blast furnace.. "

The masses bear the portraits of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, of Mao Tse-tung and Sun Yat-sen, of Liu Shao-chi, Chou En-lai and Chu Teh, and of all the leaders of the world's Communist and Workers' Parties. And the meaning of these pictures is: "We have been victorious, thanks to the invincible teachings of Marxism-Leninism, thanks to the invaluable aid given by Stalin and the U.S.S.R., and to the support of the peoples. Long live proletarian internationalism, the inseparable complement of our patriotism!"

And over all this, because of all this, joy rises, bounds and bursts like a bundle of fireworks!

Whoever said that the Chinese people are impassive? Evidently those who are frightened by the cold stare of hatred imperialism has evoked!

It is laughter that reigns here. Laughter makes every face radiant.

How they laugh, the young boys and girls, lithe and strong in their blue and white costumes with red scarfs! How they laugh on this first of May, the Chinese workers, now at last masters of their own destiny! How they laugh, the Chinese peasants, now masters of

the land from which the feudal owners have been driven! How she laughs, the Chinese woman at last emancipated!

This joy is expressed by every group, by every individual in a special way; by waving of flowers, by their dancing steps. All the flowers of China are here! The pink and the chrysanthemum, the rose and the lilac, merging with the gentle colours of the silken flags!

What an intoxicating spectacle this is, powerfully charged with free and fraternal humanity! It is an inspiring sight for the eighteen foreign trade union delegations

headed by that of the W.F.T.U. which is led by its Secretary-General, Louis Saillant. It is a sight that holds within it the certainty of victory for the delegations of workers from the capitalist, and especially from colonial and semi-colonial countries.

This parade of happiness is a lesson in history. At one and the same time it brings to these militant trade unionists of all shades of opinion a lesson for their struggle and the sense of a new and unshakeable optimism, of a new belief in the power of the people's forces!

And I can see them also laugh their quiet laugh, these great Chinese militants who are around us on the platform. It expresses joy over the task already fulfilled as well as assurance in the success of the colossal task which still lies ahead.

This historic task is outlined by the Seventh All-China Congress of Trade Unions; in a word, it is to transform the backward economy of China, inherited from feudalism and imperialism, into an industrial, advanced economy! And in advancing to that goal, create and develop heavy industry, bring into play all the productive forces by setting into motion all the inexhaustible resourcefulness of the people, the people who are already engrossed in epics like

the Huai River project, that prove that there is no limit to their potentialities.

What a grand, exalting, Cyclopean plan!

Along the road...the continuously growing well-being of the people; at the end...Socialism!

Who would be fool enough not to understand that, for the Chinese people, this exalting perspective of tremendous peaceful construction is as absolutely incompatible with any war-like idea, as day is incompatible with night?

And how forcefully this underlines the will to peace shown once again by the People's Government of China together with the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and supported by the U.S.S.R., in formulating proposals capable of bringing an end to the war in Korea!

Socialism! Pave the way for the march towards Socialism! Instinctively our gaze turns towards the delegation of the Soviet Trade Unions led by Comrade Garochkin. There is not a single Chinese who does not know how much he has to thank the U.S.S.R. and Stalin for the past as well as for today. There is not a single Chinese who does not know the immense strength of the unshakeable friendship between the Chinese and the Soviet peoples!

"The whole world sees that the union of the great Chinese and Soviet peoples...will influence not only the prosperity of these two great powers, but also the future of all mankind, and the victory of peace and justice throughout the whole world."

Everyone looks to the man who wrote that as he stands on the tribune on this first of May. Better still, here he comes forward, calm and smiling, waving to the workers and delegations who cheer him.

Our eyes grow misty with tears. For this man whose face shining with intelligence, refinement and goodness, is a giant of thought and action because he is the finest of the generation of Stalin in China.

It is he who pilots that great ship that has appeared on the horizon. That ship that bears the name—"New China." New China belongs to the people. And the Chinese people and Mao Tse-tung are one.

## MORE SINO-GERMAN TRADE

On April 30, a barter and payments agreement between the People's Republic of China and the German Democratic Republic was signed in Peking. Under its terms Germany will provide China with machinery, scientific equipment, electrical appliances and chemicals, while China will supply Germany with soya beans, grain, mineral products, oils and fats and other important commodities. The agreement provides for a total volume of trade this year 34 per cent larger than 1952, further developing trade between China and Germany.

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An exhibition of machinery and other goods from the German Democratic Republic was opened on April 27 in the Working People's Palace of Culture in Peking. Sponsored jointly by the Commission of the German Democratic Republic for the Promotion of World Trade and the Chinese Committee for the Promotion of International Trade, the exhibition is attracting large crowds of visitors. Its 900 exhibits fully demonstrate the brilliant economic victories of the German people achieved in their first years of national construction.

Machinery is the keynote of the exhibition which includes in a wide range of goods, mining machines, generator plants, motor vehicles, 35-metre-high cranes, lathes, printing machines, medical and scientific instruments.

# Blast Furnace No. 8

## How the workers of Anshan built China's first and biggest automatic blast furnace

Hsu Chih

ON March 11 this year, a huge crowd of workers gathered around the platform of the towering No. 8 blast furnace of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company. Two large five-starred red flags billowed atop the 60-metre high structure. Smaller flags and bunting fluttered from control points and office buildings. In a few moments, the tapping of China's first automatic blast furnace would begin. It was a moment the workers and technicians of Anshan had long awaited, since the day, eight months before, when they began the reconstruction of the old, ruined blast furnace left by the Japanese and Kuomintang.

At 10:12 A.M., the first red mass of molten iron poured from the tap hole. Its dazzling brilliance illumined the faces of the workers. There was an exultant cheer.

I stood next to Deputy-Manager Chao, chief of construction. He had spent many sleepless nights, but he was a mine of energy. He enjoyed this intensive life. Excitedly, he told me: "This is a great event in the history of the iron and steel industry of China."

He explained that by the end of 1952, China's pig iron production was already 105 per cent of the peak annual production of the past. Now with the powerful No. 8 blast furnace in operation and others in construction, production would immediately soar well above previous records. This will guarantee plenty of iron and steel for China's first five-year plan. It was an outstanding achievement of Chinese technology, and the experience gained here will be put to fullest use in the construction of other giant automatic installations.

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The second in our series of articles on Anshan, China's Steel City by our special correspondent.

Assured that everything was going well, Deputy-Manager Chao invited me to his office, where he gave me the full story on the furnace.

### From Old to New

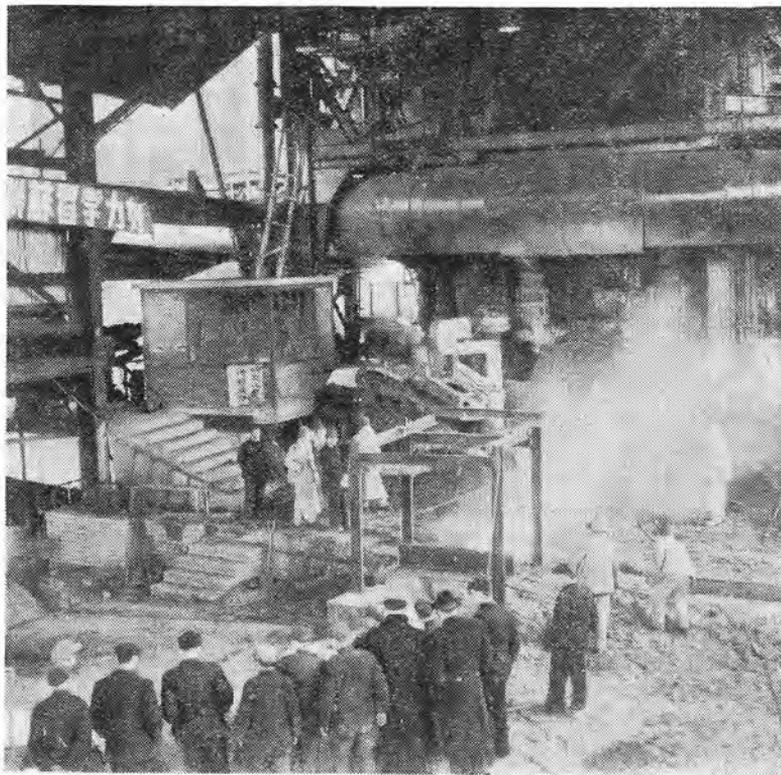
The original No. 8 blast furnace was designed and built by a German firm commissioned by the Japanese imperialists in 1939. Technically, it was nothing to boast about. Output was low. The Japanese owners failed to provide even the most rudimentary safety precautions for the workers. To them, Chinese lives and limbs were worthless. Workers opening or closing slag or tap holes stood in constant danger of injury from gas, red-hot slag or molten metal. Many were, in fact, severely injured. Burns were frequent.

In 1945, following the victory over Japan, production ceased. Only the empty steel skeleton of the furnace remained after the destruction and depredation wrought by the routed Japanese and Kuomintang troops. The paralysed giant stood inactive for eight years.

Today the furnace is virtually brand new. It is automatically charged and controlled by electricity. An electrically aimed "gun" handled by remote control is used to seal the tap holes in a few seconds; the workers now are no longer in danger of burning. The blast of hot air fed to the furnace is supplied by a new and improved type of combustion chamber. Soviet-made automatic recording equipment gives a comprehensive, minute-by-minute record of the processes taking place inside the furnaces. This makes it possible to exercise the most exact control of the whole operation of turning the iron ore into molten metal.

The No. 8 blast furnace is actually a whole complex series of various installations and auxiliary projects including coke ovens,

chemical bye-product plants, the turbine-blower and so on. The solution of all the complicated problems associated with the construction of these projects is inseparably connected with help given by the Soviet Union. The young designers completed their work according to a preliminary draft suggested by Soviet specialists. The most up-to-date equipment, including automatic machinery, came from the Soviet Union. Much of this had never before been seen in China, yet when construction started, everything went off without a hitch, largely because before the start of construction, the Soviet specialists held classes for the builders for two months, and since January this year they have been giving lectures for the furnace-operators.



**The first tapping of the No. 8 blast furnace of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company—the first automatic blast furnace to be built in China**

The building of No. 8 was a truly national effort. Workers came from all over the country to help in the work. Over 170 factories in eighteen cities, including Shanghai and Shenyang, Tientsin and Taiyuan, filled orders for equipment for the Anshan Iron and Steel Company. Much of this had never been produced in China before.

### **Production Emulation**

September, 1952, was a notable month in the building. The Peace Conference of the Asian and Pacific Regions was going to convene in Peking, and October 1, the National Day, was approaching. The weather was rainy, yet swelteringly hot. It drained the energy out of those toiling amid sun-baked metal and the heat of construction. Yet every worker joined with a will in the emulation campaign under the slogan of "For Peace!" and "A Tribute to Chairman Mao!"

Project challenged project, team challenged team, and individuals strove to fulfil production pledges ahead of schedule. The construction site, dotted with the red banners of the emula-

tion leaders, was a scene of the most intense activity. More than 800 workers were busy at different heights on the scaffolding around the furnace tower. Supplies came to them in a continuous stream. Shift followed shift with clock-like precision. Work was arranged on an hour-to-hour basis. Workers at each stage of construction handed over their finished work to the workers of the next stage in orderly procession. If one team had failed to complete its task, the work of every other team would have been affected. But the organization functioned perfectly and everything proceeded with streamlined efficiency.

The tempo of work rose in a crescendo. It was then that Soo Meng-lan, leader of a riveter team, became known throughout the project. For days his team fulfilled and overfulfilled their plan despite rain and heat. When the sun broke through the rain, steamy heat enveloped the riveters working in the close interior of the hot blast stove, driving in red-hot rivets amid the smoke of coke fires. Scaffolding workers under their leader Wang

Cheng-li tried to make them more comfortable by rigging huge tent tops over their work places 35 metres above ground. Then they returned to their own work to make up by intensified activity for the time spent on this comradely act.

Active and resourceful, Soo Meng-lan refused to rest. The construction chief ordered him to go home. He went, but soon came back to work again. "How can I rest? I just can't, with all this going on!" At night he could not sleep. Yet he did not look tired. He led his team to complete its work far ahead of schedule.

Wits were sharpened during this September emulation movement. Workers on the construction site invented a drilling machine that raised efficiency sixteen and a half times. Over 250 rationalisation proposals were submitted. Thirty-seven inventions were put into use. These have saved thousands of millions of yuan for the state, and 730 workers received awards during this red-banner emulation drive. Every assignment was completed ahead of schedule, and the month's plan was overfulfilled by 13.8 per cent.

### Final Shock Attack

With the turn of the year, reports of final success began to come in one after another. The coke ovens went into operation in January. Then the chemical plants began operation, and the powerful turbine-blower to provide the blast was put on trial for the first time. But at this final stage, a Soviet gas expert, after an inspection, pointed out a defect in the basic layout of the piping: the designers, in "looking after the present, had neglected the future," he said. In the next few years, he pointed out, more blast furnaces and many more big plants would be added to Anshan. So the layout of plants and installations should not only solve problems arising at the present stage, but give due consideration to future developments. He suggested that the gas pipeline should be shifted somewhat, so that no extra difficulties would be created for the builders of the future, and so that the No. 8 blast furnace need not interrupt production while the newer blast furnaces and plants were being built.

The date of commissioning of the whole project had already been fixed. It was estimated that only twelve days could be given to remodel

the pipeline. This period, however, included a three-day holiday for the Spring Festival. This is a big festival in China, and many workers had already ordered their train tickets home and bought gifts for the reunion with their families. But when the workers heard that this work had to be done and that volunteers were called for, they put everything else aside. The number of workers on the site during the Spring Festival exceeded the original estimate.

Soo Meng-lan was there again toiling without rest day and night. He again excused his presence by pleading insomnia. "The furnace is my home," he said. "When all this started, I told my Sonny not to look for me until my work here was done." He was speaking for the other workers too.

Shock work continued for seven days and nights right through the holidays, snow notwithstanding. To encourage the workers, the cultural section broadcast songs and *kuai pan*, quick-rhythm ballads, over specially erected loudspeakers.

As work on the furnace neared its end, excitement throughout the project mounted.

The last step was when a Soviet electrical expert carefully examined, tested and made the final adjustments in the electrical installations. As he went along, he explained each step in the process to the workers and technicians on the job. Regular, systematic study went on till the very last minute. After two days and one night with hardly any rest, this painstaking expert was finally satisfied.

At a simple ceremony, the No. 8 blast furnace was charged. The switches were thrown. Red indicator lights announced the start of production, and the hot blast roared into the furnace.

Having rehearsed this operation many times, the workers at the furnace did it to perfection. Each knew that he stood at a post of high honour.

Vulcan, god of Greek mythology, was known for his skill with bellows and hammer. But now, new legends are being created. Mankind has mastered the science of metallurgy. Today, the ancient god must look up to superiors in his art—like the talented and industrious builders of the No. 8 blast furnace and the record-breakers trained in advanced Soviet technique at Anshan in the new China.

# The Second All-China Women's Congress

Our Correspondent

**T**HE second All-China Women's Congress attended by more than 900 delegates met from April 15 to 23 in Peking. Its main purpose, in the words of Hsu Kuang-ping, a vice-president of the All-China Democratic Women's Federation and the widow of China's great writer Lu Hsun, was "to review the achievements and experiences of the women's movement during the past four years since the last congress and to define our future tasks in relation to the requirements of the present situation."

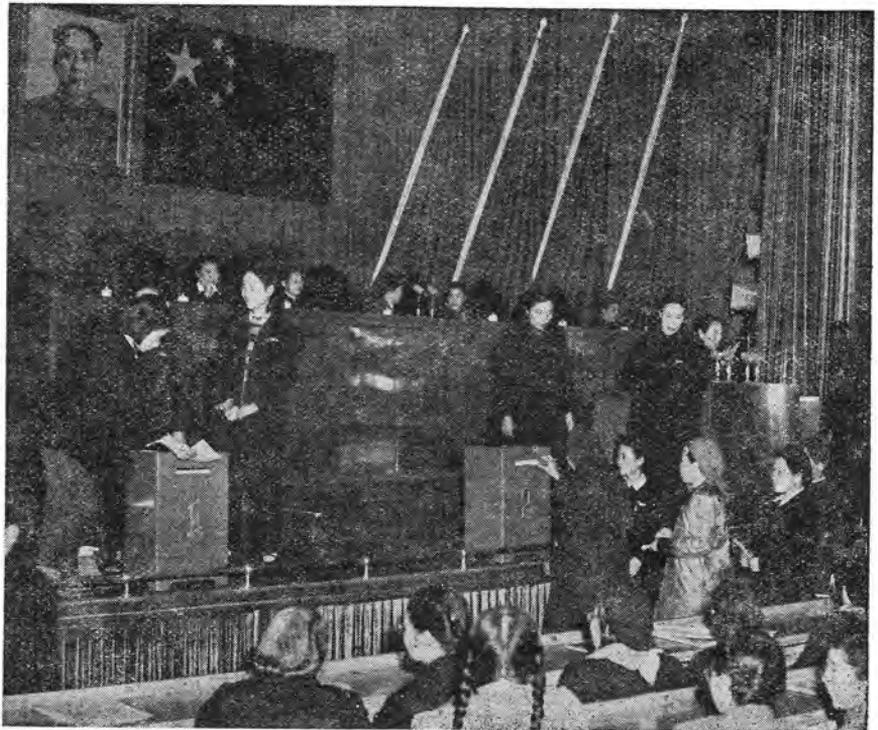
Delegates came from every walk of life. There were model workers in industry and agriculture; representatives from the People's Liberation Army and the volunteers in Korea; women of twenty different nationalities and various religious persuasions. Delegates of oversea-Chinese women were also present.

## Women's Advance

There was much progress to report since the first congress in March, 1949. Under the New Democratic system, the political, economic and social status of women has advanced in step with the rapid development of the country. The

passage of the Marriage Law in 1950 freed women from the old feudal marriage system. The Labour Insurance Regulations of 1951 gave women workers equal rights to the benefits of labour insurance and special treatment for mothers at work. This year the Electoral Law gave equal electoral rights to women.

Here are some facts which emerged from reports made at the sessions. In the Central People's Government there are over sixty women holding important posts such as vice-chairman,



Delegates to the second All-China Women's Congress voting for the members of the new Executive Committee of the All-China Democratic Women's Federation

ministers and vice-ministers, heads of bureaux and other responsible offices. Six out of ten workers in the textile industry are women. In the countryside 60 per cent of all able-bodied women are now doing some form of work on the farm.

Women have moved into many professions and occupations which were formerly closed to them. There is a woman blast-furnace manager for the first time in the history of China. There are now women electricians, surveyors, railway traffic controllers, tractor-drivers, railway engine-drivers, shipwrights. Of the many who have volunteered for service in Korea, nearly 1,000 have been decorated for outstanding services.

### Outstanding Women

The conference heard reports of the great contributions made by many outstanding women to the building of the new China. Kung Chao-chih, a young designer employed at the Anshan Iron and Steel Company, saved the state 4,000 million yuan in one year by a rationalisation proposal. Sun Hsiao-chu, China's first woman railway traffic controller, told of her development from station dispatcher to controller in charge of thirty-eight stations.

The Congress heard twenty-four-year-old Shen Chi-lan, vice-director of the famous Li Shun-ta agricultural co-operative, describe how she had helped persuade the members that men and women should have equal pay for equal work in the co-operative. Among the national minority delegates at the Congress was Hsiang Pi-ying, a Miao from Kweichow Province. Now deputy-head of Pichieh County, Hsiang had shared the downtrodden life of her nationality under the Kuomintang regime; a poor peasant girl, she once lived on buckwheat meal and grass roots in the high mountain areas.

The Congress demonstrated the great determination of China's women to take their places with the men in the modernisation of China. Teng Ying-chao, a vice-president of the Women's Federation, said in her report to the Congress:\*

Active mobilisation and organisation of still greater numbers of women and full use of their

\* Teng Ying-chao's report is printed as a supplement in this issue.

latent powers for participation in industrial and agricultural production and other phases of construction is the central task of the women's movement in the coming years.

Chinese women, Teng Ying-chao said, should continue to support the campaign to resist U.S. aggression and aid Korea and take an active part in the international movement for peace and democracy.

### For Peace

Women at the Congress made clear their stand for peace and friendship between the peoples. Speaking of the World Congress of Women shortly to be held in Denmark, Lu Tsui, head of the international department of the Women's Federation, said that the Congress would further the cause of peace, "and we Chinese women wholeheartedly support it." She continued:

We need a peaceful environment in which to engage in peaceful endeavours.... We know that our peaceful construction will leap forward and the people's standard of living rise even more rapidly if the U.S. war of aggression against Korea were stopped and the menace of U.S. aggression removed.... That is why we cherish peace and warmly support the international cause of defending peace. We know that the destiny of Chinese women is linked with that of the women of the rest of the world.

The Congress elected thirty representatives including Tsai Chang and Li Teh-chuan to attend the World Congress of Women. It also adopted a revised constitution for the Federation and elected an executive committee of 125 members. At its first meeting, the committee elected Soong Ching-Ling and Ho Hsiang-ning as honorary chairmen.

Concluding its session, the Congress sent a message to Mao Tse-tung, the great teacher and emancipator of China's women. "Owing to your leadership, and the leadership of the Communist Party and the People's Government," the message said, "and owing to the victory of our people's revolution and the development of national construction, the status of women has been fundamentally changed. Women now have equal rights with men." The message pledged that China's women would "achieve still better records in work and contribute even greater efforts for national construction, world peace and the victory of democracy."

# Back to Freedom at Kaesong

*Our special correspondent describes the reception village in Kaesong where K.P.A. and C.P.V. sick and injured repatriates are resting and recovering from the cruel years they spent in U.S. terror camps*

"Welcome back to the motherland!"

"Rest and recover. Join in peaceful construction!"

Multi-coloured posters bearing these slogans are seen everywhere among the green and white tents in suburban Kaesong for sick and injured K.P.A. men and Chinese people's volunteers recently returned from Koje and Cheju Islands. And they best characterise the warm reception and tender care accorded these men who have fought their way back through the horrors of forced "screening" in United States' P.O.W. camps.

## Happy Groups

Spring sunshine floods the tent village. Hundreds of small Korean and Chinese flags flutter on tent poles. Newly transplanted young pines and wild flowers border neat lanes. In front of each tent, men clad in brand-new uniforms and padded overcoats sit on benches and chairs, reading or playing cards, their crutches laid aside. I moved among the happy groups poring over pictorial magazines: "Look, look at this big dam on the Huai River!" "See how many people came from other countries to attend the Peace Conference in Peking!" "See here! The National Day parade in Peking, and Chairman Mao at Tien An Men!"

Lightly sick and injured men are building additional flower beds beside their tents. One group is putting finishing touches to a big flower bed in the shape of the Korean peninsula, marked with miniature electric pylons, with Pyongyang and other cities shown with bright coloured cobbles and the most beautiful blooms. Others are making patterns of the peace dove and national flags. This forcefully brought

home to us that it was undoubtedly this same strong urge to build and beautify their homelands that sustained these men in their valiant fight against the invaders even in the P.O.W. camps.

I enter a tent where a nurse is reading an item on the recent fighting at "Old Baldy" for a group of blind men, some of whom lost their eyesight as a result of American guards using tear gas against them. Broad smiles flash across their faces as she describes the final rout of the enemy. And in another tent, several limbless men are playing chess with a nurse standing by to move the chessmen for them. When the game is finished, the nurse feeds each of them with a glass of powdered milk, insisting that they should drain the glass. Tears of gratitude well up in the men's eyes. One of them hesitatingly stretches out an amputated arm to the nurse for a handshake, saying, "Comrade, all of you are so kind." The girl presses his stump tightly, saying, "You are back with us again."

## Tranquillity at Last

This atmosphere of happiness, so profound yet so quiet, reigns in every corner of the temporary hospitals. We walk almost on tiptoe lest even the creaking of boots will disturb the tranquillity which these men are at last enjoying after going through so much violence.

Every day, open-air performances are given by Korea's state theatrical group, the K.P.A.'s Song and Dance Ensemble and the C.P.V.'s art and variety show groups in hospitals. Returned men eagerly drink in every bit of their beloved national dances and songs. Blind men ask to be seated in the first row so that they can "feel it though we cannot see it." The eager

audience again and again encores favourite songs, the singing of which in American camps has cost the lives of so many of their comrades.

But bitter memories of Koje and Cheju still creep back every now and then and cast their shadow on the village of free men.

Several cripples, supported by white-robed nurses, are taking a stroll on their crutches. One of them stops and stares long and sadly at the waving red flags. He utters a deep sigh and tells the nurse: "How many of us were killed by American and Kuomintang agents only because we wanted to hoist our national flags in the enemy camps!"

Near one tent, a group of newspapermen are interviewing a young lad who has not a single limb left. He had suffered only from a minor frost-bite, and the first treatment the enemy gave him one month later was to hack both his hands and feet off. "I am only twenty-two, and they make me into a cripple like this!" he concluded bitterly, biting his lips. Another man takes off his tunic and shows pressmen large scars on his left arm. "Taiwan agents beat me unconscious and tattooed four characters—'Oppose Communism and Resist Russia,'" he said. "When I came to my senses, I used a razor blade to take the marks off. Some comrades used lighted cigarettes to burn theirs off."

### Tortured Girls

Torturing memories are fresher in the women's wards where all of the twenty-one inmates came back only on the last day of sick and injured exchange. One of these Korean girls, who was driven insane by American maltreatment, sits on her bed staring blankly. They eagerly tell visiting correspondents of their struggles in the American camps. Sick and injured girls who refused to renounce their right to repatriation were thrown into goals where they were left groaning day and night without any medical treatment. Among the eighty girls they know to have been wounded or crippled during forcible "screening," only their group of twenty-one was repatriated.

Theirs is a heartrending tale of beatings with rubber hoses, devastating electric shocks, and tortures designed specially to insult and

harm female victims. And all these brutalities were connected with "screening" and "reclassification" aimed at making all P.O.W.'s afraid of returning to their families and homelands. The girls' taut nerves appear to be somewhat relaxed after they have recounted some of these ghastly experiences. As nurses help them lie down on snow-white bedding, the bloodless faces relax in faint smiles.

### Mental Cases

But the place where the effects of Koje are still dominant is the hospital for 143 mental patients in an ancient temple. Here are people with dishevelled hair, ashen complexions and vacant stares. Hysterical laughter, angry shrieks and muttered words are heard frequently. Many patients don't even remember their names. But they do make it unmistakably clear how they lost their minds. Many keep on shouting all day long:

"Let's go back to North Korea! I am Korean. You may beat me to death but I still want to go back!"

A doctor comes in for the routine check. A patient sneers at him: "Interrogation again? Entirely unnecessary. I told you long ago that I am no 'civilian internee.' I am a P.O.W. I want to go to Pyongyang!" (It has long been known that the Americans forcibly classified many thousands of Korean P.O.W.'s as "civilian internees" and handed them over to the Syngman Rhee regime for impressment into the puppet army through the ostensible process of "release.") A nurse enters the ward to give inoculations. Many patients tense up against the wall and murmur to themselves: "They are going to kill people again! They are!"

But doctors and nurses are confident that they can help bring the men back to sanity. Already some men are whispering to each other: "Why have those bloody devils stopped beating and cursing us? Why are they smiling now?"

One doctor says to us: "Most of these comrades will be all right. The root cause of their illness has now been removed. Loving care will be the best medicine."

Kaesong  
May 9

# Hidden Treasures of Folk Art

The All-China Folk Music and Dance Festival rediscovered hidden gems of China's cultural heritage

Yang Yu

**T**HE first All-China Folk Music and Dance Festival sponsored by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs was an unprecedented occasion in the development of the dramatic arts of China. From April 1-8 this year, in matinee and night performances, more than three hundred folk artists, gathered in Peking from all parts of the country, gave a review of their attainments. They represented ten nationalities, including musicians from the grasslands of Inner Mongolia, dancers from Sinkiang Province, Korean peasant dancers from Northeast China, famous mountaineer singers from the highlands of the Southwest and young dancers from tropical Hainan Island.

In these memorable days the participants at the Festival watched each other's performances together with the poets, musicians, dancers, singers and other artists in the audience. Then came many meetings of discussions and public performances. The Festival revealed long hidden gems of folk art from a treasury of art which, as it is systematically studied and developed, will be an inexhaustible source of inspiration to all artists.

## Thorough Preparation

The Festival had been a considerable time in preparation.

Early this year, under the direction of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, two hundred experienced musicians and dancers—including Tai Ai-lien, the dancer, and the musicians Li Ling and Li Huan-chih—went in groups to various parts of the country to study the folk arts. For over two months they traveled in twenty-six provinces and the two autonomous regions of Inner Mongolia and Yen Pien in the Northeast. Sometimes by ox-cart or horseback, they visited many villages in the remotest parts of the country. They saw and heard well-known forms of folk art like the *yangko* dances of the Shansi peasants or the Yangtze River boatmen's songs, they also



Mirwan, a Kazakh from Sinkiang, performs a Kazakh folk dance which incorporates work movements such as shearing, weaving and spinning

found many types of folk art which are an intimate part of the life of the people but had previously been completely unknown to outsiders. In a small village in Kiangsi Province, one group saw peasants performing an ancient dance called *Tiao No*. It was originally a ritual dance for exorcising evil spirits and is known to have been danced as early as the Chou Dynasty more than three thousand years ago.

In the early part of March this year, preliminary folk art festivals were sponsored by local cultural organisations in more than twenty provinces and municipalities. Some five hundred artists participated in the performances in Liaotung Province alone. At these festivals long-forgotten songs were revived. In Peking, monks of nine Buddhist temples gave performance of *fu chu*, Buddhist songs, a legacy from the Tang (A.D. 618—906) and Sung (A.D. 960—1276) Dynasties hitherto preserved exclusively in these monasteries.

More than one hundred musical and dance numbers were selected from these regional festivals for performance at the national festival in the capital. All were well-chosen, vital and popular among the masses; they had the typical traits of our folk arts which have been developed and enriched through the ages.

A characteristic of Chinese folk art is its expression of the people's indomitable resistance to oppression. The *Lion Dance*, an ever popular favourite throughout the country, as performed by artists from Hunan Province, depicts the fight of a brave man with a lion. Calm, resolute and agile, the man finally defeats the lion which symbolises brute force.

Artists from Kwangtung Province performed another dance on this theme: *The Dance of Heroes* which is the story of the folk heroes of the famous novel *Water Margin* (*All Men Are Brothers*) who waged an uncompromising fight against the tyrants of their time. The *Sword Dance* by Koreans from Northeast China similarly expresses the peasants' wrath and militant spirit in their struggle against the oppressors.

### People's Optimism

Despite the cruelties of tyrannical rulers, the masses of the people never lost confidence in the ultimate victory of their struggle for a



**Han Chi-hsiang, famous blind musician and ballad-singer from Yenan, performing at the Festival**

happy life. Many folk songs, musical compositions and dances express this optimism of the people. One of the most striking is the 'Orchestra of Eight Musical Instruments (the Chinese reed organ, flute, drums and gongs), a firm favourite with the peasants of Shansi Province. Its performance of the *March of Victory* struck a chord in the hearts of the audience from the very start by its lively rhythm, its clear and sonorous melody and tremendous force. It is a picture of the triumphant return of the people's troops, with banners flying, horses neighing and people cheering. The marching troops seem to draw nearer and nearer like a wave. The exultation of the people rises to a climax, with the drums and gongs sounding fantastically loud.

Another distinctive trait of our folk art is its realistic reflection of the people's life, in all its rich and colourful activities.

Han Chi-hsiang, a blind musician whose life had been saved by the liberation and whose art had been given a new vitality, was one of several who sang praises of the life of the people in the People's China.

*Catching the Butterfly* from Northeast China and *Kite-Flying* from Hunan Province are dances of courtship. The former expresses the mood of a young man catching a butterfly, the symbol of love, in a garden of spring blossoms. The latter portrays a young woman flying a kite in the garden while waiting for her sweetheart. This was danced with incredible virtuosity by a sixty-one-year-old artist Liao Chun-shan, who evoked with rare insight the feelings of a girl in her first love. Only two people in the whole of China know the steps of this dance. Many years ago the only man who knew it taught it to these two, Liao Chun-shan and a woman partner. The troubled times separated them. It was only when two investigation teams working in Hunan and Kiangsi provinces separately discovered the two that once again the dance was brought together as a whole.

The people love the world of nature: the morning clouds, the setting sun, the breeze, snow flakes, the mountains and rivers, the roaring sea; all aspects of nature stir their feelings and imagination. The *Hundred Birds Paying Tribute to the Phoenix*, a musical composition of Hupeh and Shantung Provinces for wind instruments, imitates the singing of birds and expresses the joy and gaiety of nature in festive mood.

Many work songs and dances express the Chinese people's love of work. *Casting the Fishnet*, a piece for drums, gongs, cymbals, flutes and trumpets from Chaochow, Kwangtung Province, portrays the labour of the fishermen in musical form. The first drummer, Chiu Han-shang, is a fisherman himself who has played this instrument for fifty years having first learnt the art from a carpenter friend in his village. The *Dagour* dance of Inner Mongolia depicts the life of hunters. The sweet notes of the two-stringed *matouchin* which accompany it, convey the sense of limitless space of the steppes.

### Chairman Mao's Directive

Ever since 1942, when Chairman Mao Tse-tung gave his famous lectures at the Yenan Round-Table Discussion on Literature and Art, the People's Government and progressive artists have paid still greater attention to the study and development of folk art. During the early days of the war against Japanese aggression

and the liberation war, it was only possible to take certain art forms, such as the *yangko* or waist drum, and develop them intensively to serve the mortal struggle of the people that was then being waged. In the present period of peaceful construction, it has become possible to undertake a planned and systematic, nation-wide study of the folk arts, one of the richest veins of our cultural heritage, and give them the most favourable opportunities for mutual enrichment and development.

In the old society folk artists were discriminated against. These artists of the people were regarded by the rulers with contempt. Children of certain folk musicians were forbidden by law to serve as government officials or to engage in trade. Many folk artists were reduced to beggary and led a vagrant life. Their emancipation and the emancipation of their art were possible only in the new society.

Folk artists of the peasantry, the overwhelming majority, received adequate land-holdings like other peasants in the land reform.



Liao Chun-shan, a folk artist from Hunan, performs "Kite-flying"—a dance of a girl waiting for her sweetheart

Folk artists in urban areas receive the care given to all artists by the People's Government.

During the Peking festival, a research group of more than eighty experts on music and the dance was organised by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs to study the various folk arts shown, to help their practitioners eliminate elements of superstition and backwardness from their art, and to strengthen its positive elements. They also heard detailed reports on the findings of the field investigation groups about performances which were not presented at the Festival but were recorded. At the same time, the folk artists of various nationalities met and exchanged experiences. Many of these discussions were participated in by Peking's professional artists who themselves staged special performances for the folk artists who were guests of the capital.

The Festival ended officially on April 14. But this was only a beginning of a new stage in the development of the music and dance arts

of New China. Ma Ke, the well-known composer, in an article in the *People's Daily* expressed something which the Festival served to bring home most vividly to the Chinese artists—that professional artists must learn from the folk arts: "Without the professional musician, the people's music could not be developed to the highest level. But if the professionals should divorce their art from the music of the people, they would be helpless." Before he came to Peking, the blind minstrel Han Chihsiang, as he frankly admitted, was somewhat complacent about his technique on the *san hsien* (a kind of Chinese violin). But, he added, after the Festival and the discussions, he realised that he had still a lot to learn. These are only two typical results of the Festival.

The treasury of folk art has been opened. The gems to be found there will be brought forth and placed in a richer setting for the edification of the people and the further advance of the professional arts.

## In Memory of Agnes Smedley

Friendship of the peoples was the keynote of a solemn ceremony held in Peking on May 6 under the sponsorship of the All-China Federation of Writers and Artists to commemorate the third anniversary of the death of the famous American writer, Agnes Smedley.

Chinese, Americans and nationals of many other countries stood in homage at the tomb in the Cemetery of Revolutionary Martyrs, where Agnes Smedley's ashes lie buried, brought at her last request from England, where she died, to find rest in the China she loved. The tomb is marked by a simple stone slab inscribed in Chinese in the handwriting of her friend Chu Teh, Commander-in-Chief of the People's Liberation Army: "The Grave of Miss Smedley, Friend of the Chinese People and American Revolutionary Writer."

Kang Keh-ching, the wife of Chu Teh and representative from the All-China Democratic Women's Federation, placed a wreath on the grave of this American woman who had made the struggle of the Chinese people her own.

Chow Yang, Vice-Minister of Cultural Affairs, said in his memorial speech:

"Agnes Smedley's friendship with the Chinese people proves that no reactionary plots can destroy the friendship between the American and Chinese peoples, that this friendship is indestructible because it has a common goal: Peace, Democracy and Progress."

William Hinton, agricultural technician, made an address on behalf of the group of Americans present among whom were Louis D. Wheaton of the Peace Liaison Committee of the Asian and Pacific Regions and Joseph Starobin, correspondent of the *New York Daily Worker*.

"I speak as one of the many ordinary Americans on whose life Agnes Smedley exerted a great influence," he said. "There is a long-standing tradition of friendship for China among the American people.... Today it is expressed in the demand for an end to the Korean war, for peaceful, normal relations with China...."

Rewi Alley, New Zealand peace representative, told of Agnes Smedley's struggles against the evils of the old society in China, which he had witnessed. Nan Green, prominent British peace worker, said: "Agnes Smedley will live and be remembered in the new world because she fearlessly told the truth about the endless deeds of heroism that led to the victory of the Chinese people."

Agnes Smedley is dead, but her work continues to live—helping the peoples to unite and find brotherhood in the struggle for peace and progress.

# Daughters of China in Korea

## Our Correspondent

**N**EARLY a thousand women serving with the Chinese people's volunteers in Korea have been cited for outstanding services. Fighting courageously alongside their comrades of the C.P.V. and the Korean people's forces, these daughters of China have won the undying love and esteem of the entire Chinese people.

Women volunteers have stood up to the severest of tests. During the advance from the Yalu River to the Imjin River, bombed and shelled by the enemy, they marched in weather 30 degrees below zero. Carrying packs sometimes weighing up to 35 pounds, they climbed high mountains, often knee-deep in snow.

They never for a moment relaxed in the care of the wounded in their charge. However tired they were they would dig air-raid shelters for the wounded and establish temporary hospitals when needed. In many cases nurses carried wounded across rivers where the icy waters ran chin-deep.

Women members of cultural and art troupes have also won the admiration of the fighters at the front. Singers and dancers often braved enemy artillery fire to bring loved songs and dances to the volunteers at the front. Telegraphists have particularly distinguished themselves by keeping communications going even during the heaviest bombardments.

### Deathless Heroines

Some of these brave women have made the supreme sacrifice, and many others have been severely wounded while working devotedly at their tasks. Chao Yu-hua, a nurse, first distinguished herself as a blood-donor. Last year she was machine-gunned by an enemy plane and killed while on duty. Another nurse, Wang Chou-chun, wounded in the hip by an enemy raider, got up despite her wounds to help others into a shelter. Her selfless act cost her her life. She was killed

by a second bomb. Wang Chang-ying, another heroine, during an air-raid, protected a wounded fighter with her own body. She was wounded herself, but her patient was saved. Heroic Wang Ying, who came to the recent All-China Women's Congress as a delegate from the C.P.V., entered a house set on fire by enemy planes and carried out five persons despite the threatening collapse of the building. She also helped others to move out three seriously wounded men. Just as they rushed out of the burning wreck with the last patient, the house collapsed.

### Why They Serve

Actuated by a profound consciousness of political purpose the women of the C.P.V. have made their great contributions to the Korean war against aggression. Li Chen, Secretary-General of the Political Department of the Chinese people's volunteers, and herself a woman, has reported that 74 per cent of the women volunteers are now either members of the Communist Party or the New Democratic Youth League.

Women are serving in every branch of the volunteer forces. They were formerly workers, peasants, intellectuals, housewives. While some are young girls of eighteen, others are mothers who left their children to go to Korea. An outstanding example of their high patriotism and internationalism is Chang Wei-min, a heroine volunteer. She went to Korea only a few months after she had had her baby. When someone asked her whether she missed her baby, she answered: "Is there a mother who does not love her child? Of course I love my child, that is why I've come to Korea; to protect my child and to help and defend millions of children and mothers from aggression." Chang Wei-min perfectly expressed the noble motives of all China's women on the fighting fronts in Korea—to defend peace and to make the world safe for mothers and children.

# IN THE NEWS

have a capacity of 100,000 tons of water per day.

## New Railways and Roads

Good progress is reported from New China's road and rail construction sites. In the Northwest, track-laying along the 36-km. stretch from Lanchow to the new Yellow River Bridge has been completed in the construction of the Lanchow-Sinkiang Railway project. This year, a 184-km. section of the line will be finished.

The track is being laid on 118-km. of the Chengtu-Tienshui Railway. Construction of this project began on July 1, 1952, when the new line from Chengtu to Chungking was opened.

Work is pressing forward 14,000 ft. above sea level on the 1,130-km. Chinghai-Tibet Road. Traffic has already started on the 500-km. section from its starting point in Sinning, provincial capital of Chinghai, to Huanghoyen.

Tea, cloth, salt and manufactured goods are now moving along 178 km. of the 526-km.-long road between Chengtu and Apha which is now in course of construction. Apha is a Tibetan autonomous region in Szechuan Province.

A new 150-km. road has been completed in the Mongolian Autonomous Region in southeast Ningxia Province, North China. The road will greatly facilitate the bringing out of salt from the Kirantai Salt Lake, the largest of the 14 natural crystalline salt lakes in the area.

## City Construction in NE

Over 817,000 million yuan have been allotted this year for municipal construction in 25 cities in Northeast China. Two-thirds of this sum are earmarked for Shenyang, Anshan, Harbin and Changchun.

Altogether more than 2,900,000 sq. metres of roadway will be built or repaired, over 260 kilometres of drainage and gas pipes installed. There will be more tramways, buses, fire-prevention installations, reservoirs and gasometers.

## Modern Reservoir for NW

Northwest China's first modern reservoir, Hung Yen Chih (the Pond of the Red Wild Geese), 15

## May Day Celebrations

Throughout China, millions of working people joyfully celebrated International Labour Day. In Peking, 500,000 people marched through Tien An Men Square in the day's celebrations which were attended by Chairman Mao Tse-tung and other leaders of the Central People's Government.

In Shanghai, 600,000 celebrated May Day in the People's Square. Parading workers carried charts and models showing their achievements. Textile workers reported that the output of cotton yarn in the first quarter of this year was 90% more than in the same period in 1952. Building workers exhibited models of new houses now being built for 20,000 workers.

In Shenyang, 300 model workers led the May Day parade. Last year, together with other workers of the city, they had created extra wealth for the state equivalent to three and a half million tons of grain; and surpassed the target of 120,000 square metres of factory space.

In Tientsin, more than 400,000 gathered to celebrate the day. In Chungking, large numbers of women mechanics, maintenance workers, building workers and train conductors on the Chengtu-Chungking Railway were among the paraders.

In Wuhan, peasants joined in the celebration of the first May Day since the completion of land reform. They displayed charts reporting an average increase in production in the area of 184% over 1949. In Canton, oversea-Chinese were among the 200,000 people who celebrated the day at 12 big meetings.

In Lhasa, workers of the Tibetan, Han and Hui nationalities marked the day with celebration and discussion meetings and games.

More than 3,300,000 people in 40 other cities, towns and construction sites celebrated the day at big rallies.

## On the Industrial Front

Construction of a modern steel sheet mill for the Anshan Iron and Steel Company, part of Anshan's 1953 plan, is in full swing. This will be completed in the latter part of the year. Meanwhile, China's first big automatic seamless tubing mill—one of the three automatic plants begun in Anshan last year—is nearing completion. Forty workers and technicians who have returned after a 7-month period of study of seamless tube engineering in the Soviet Union will join the staff of the mill.

Big developments are taking place in the cotton industry. A new state-owned mill in Hantan, the Hopei cotton centre, which took two years to build, was commissioned in April. Another state mill in Chengchow City, in a cotton-producing area of Honan Province, is near completion. Nearly 20,000 spindles are already in operation. Starting May, another cotton mill will be constructed here.

New machinery is now being installed in China's first all-automatic textile machinery plant in Taiyuan, important North China industrial centre. It is expected that the annual output of one shift only in this highly efficient factory will equal 80% of China's present total annual production of textile machinery.

## Made in China

China's first automatic track-inspection train was dedicated to Chairman Mao Tse-tung on May 1. The train is the product of the joint efforts of the technicians and workers of North China's Tangshan Train Repair Works, who successfully finished their pioneering work after one year and eight months of patient endeavour.

On the eve of May Day, a new set of mechanical water filters—yet another product to bear the proud mark, "Made in China"—started operations in Tientsin. The filters

km. south of Tihua City, has been completed. On May 1, the reservoir began the irrigation of some 15,000 hectares of land. It is part of an irrigation project designed to turn the wasteland around Tihua into a rich granary. The project was begun in September, 1950.

In the past, grain output in the Tihua area was extremely low because of lack of irrigation. Most of the grain supply for the city area had to be brought from places as far away as 500-1,000 km. Transport was expensive—two to five times that of the original cost of the grain. When the project is further expanded according to plan, a total of 27,000 hectares of land will be irrigated and made fertile.

### Education in Sinkiang

Sinkiang Province has now over 330,000 primary school pupils, an increase of 70% over pre-liberation days. Students in middle schools and teachers' training schools have increased by 221%.

This summer, more than 1,700 students will graduate from the Sinkiang National Minorities Institute and training schools for teachers and other cadres. Many young people from Sinkiang are studying in universities and colleges in other parts of China.

In the past three years, over 3 million textbooks for secondary and primary schools have been published in their own languages for the Uighur, Kazakh, Mongolian and Han peoples of Sinkiang.

### Rosenberg Protest

Throughout the country the Chinese people are voicing their protests against the framed-up case of the Rosenbergs, the young American couple condemned to death on false charges of "atomic spying."

Chu Hsueh-fan, Vice-President of the All-China Federation of Labour, writing in the *People's Daily* recently, declared: "Julius and Ethel Rosenberg have now become hostages, held by the ruling class, to intimidate the people and workers who are fighting for democracy, freedom and world peace. We, working people of China, pledge our full support to the American people in their righteous struggle to save the Rosenbergs."

## CHRONICLE OF EVENTS

### April 22

The 83rd anniversary of Lenin's birth is commemorated in China.

The Chinese Institute of Political Science and Jurisprudence is formally established in Peking.

### April 26

Korean armistice negotiations are resumed at Panmunjom. General Nam Il makes a six-point proposal for the over-all settlement of the question of P.O.W. repatriation.

Last group of U.N. sick and injured personnel is repatriated by Korean-Chinese side.

### April 28

Foreign Minister Chou En-lai replies to the International Committee of the Congress of the Peoples for Peace supporting the proposal of the Congress for the conclusion of a Five-Power Peace Pact.

### April 30

A goods exchange and payments agreement between China and the German Democratic Republic for 1953 is signed in Peking.

### May 1

International Labour Day is celebrated.

### May 2

7th All-China Congress of Trade Unions opens in Peking.

### May 3

Last group of Korean and Chinese sick and injured personnel repatriated by the other side is received by the Korean-Chinese side.

### May 4

Chinese Youth Day is celebrated.

### May 5

The 135th anniversary of Karl Marx's birth is commemorated in China.

A new Peking-Sian-Chungking airline is opened by the People's Aviation Corporation of China.

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**CORRECTION:** In our No. 8 issue, on page 24, col. 2, line 6, under the subhead "Big New Plants," the sentence should read: "When the rolling mill is completed, its planned annual output of steel products will be sufficient to build fourteen modern steel plants each as large as the rolling mill itself."

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## LETTERS

To the Editor

### New vs. Old

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

It would be impossible to describe in words the happiness I feel when I read of your new-found freedom and tremendous progress in all the important things in life and living. The contrast between the old and the new is shocking. I brought out my old scrap book that I've kept for years, recording world events in photographs and news clippings, and I showed my son the conditions that existed in your land not so many years ago. The chronic famine, of children dying or dead in the streets, of people's sufferings that showed so plainly on their faces. And now, to see the happiness, to see photos of people working by the masses on an important project which will be of unlimited help to them and the country, to see in print the declaration of equality of women and men.

And children being cared for, fed and clothed and housed and educated. All this and so very much more brings me to wish you all greater and greater successes in the future.

Mrs. Thena Shepherd

### Tremendous Progress

#### WEST BENGAL, INDIA

I read with interest *People's China* regularly and it teaches us how your country is being rebuilt under the leadership of the People's Government. Language fails to describe my feelings when I read that in so short a period what tremendous progress you have made. People's patriotism, co-operation and Chairman Mao's correct leadership, I think, have made it a grand success.

Lalit Hazra

# RADIO PEKING

ENGLISH LANGUAGE BROADCASTS

NEW SCHEDULE BEGINNING APRIL 20, 1953

Greenwich Mean Time	Frequencies (kc/s)	Metre Bands
<b>03:00 - 03:30</b> (11:00-11:30 a.m. Peking Time)	13630 15060	22 19
<b>09:00 - 09:30</b> (5:00-5:30 p.m. Peking Time)	640 700 6100 7500 9040 10260 11690 15060 15170	468.7 428.57 49 40 33 29 25 19 19
<b>13:30 - 14:00</b> (9:30-10:00 p.m. Peking Time)	700 11690 15060	428.57 25 19