

PEKING

MARCH 11

1958

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REVIEW

THE "TWO CHINAS" HOAX

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報

Balance— Imbalance— New Balance

Renmin Ribao explains the thinking behind the bold planning and accelerated rate of progress in China today (p. 8).

New Tempo for Agriculture

The policy of "simultaneously developing industry and agriculture on the basis of priority for heavy industry" and why (p. 12).

Making Chinese Easier to Learn

Chinese language reform and the Scheme for the Chinese Phonetic Alphabet expertly explained (p. 14).

Heading for Olympic Heights

China was an "also ran" in sports. Today her athletes are chalking up new world records (p. 17).

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PEKING REVIEW

北京周报

(BEIJING ZHOUBAO)

A WEEKLY MAGAZINE OF CHINESE
NEWS AND VIEWS

March 11, 1958

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It's No Mystery

VISITORS from the West who see People's China for the first time usually express surprise. What surprises them are the far-reaching changes that have taken place since the founding of the new republic. For the "old China hand" who was familiar with the China of feudal warlords and comprador-capitalists, things in New China are definitely not what they used to be. The complete stranger who has never been to China before and who has only read something about this country in the capitalist press finds things in New China quite different than expected. This surprise is only natural.

Judged by the yardstick of a capitalist country, many things here are indeed "inexplicable." But it's no mystery.

Take the current big leap forward in China's national economy, for example. What was once regarded as impossible has now become possible. Jobs that used to take months and years to complete are now being done in days and weeks. In 45 days Yoshi County in Anhwei Province completed a programme of tree-planting originally planned for ten years.

This is something that happens when a nation has achieved national independence and adopted the socialist path. The initiative and creative energy of the people is limitless, because at long last the broad labouring masses have got something to fight for and something to fight with. This is the source of New China's strength.

The rapid growth of China's co-operative farming tells a fascinating story. Once the individual peasants got organized in co-ops, they could see for themselves the advantages of collective farming spelled out in greater yields and higher personal incomes. That's why they have become more and more identified with the co-ops. And now they pin their hopes for a better future on the ever-growing prosperity of their co-ops.

Socialist emulation is another example of how the "impossible" becomes possible.

The cut-throat competition of capitalist "free enterprises" usually results in undisputed victory for the strong and destruction of the weak. To the victor go the spoils. In the battle for survival in old society it is everybody for himself and the devil take the hindmost.

In People's China, socialist emulation is just the reverse. The strong and the advanced help the weak and the backward by sharing with them the "secrets" of success. The backward try to catch up by learning from the advanced. Here, it is all for one and one for all. Community of interest and shared ideals unite people of all sorts and conditions in concerted effort for the common good. This spirit of mutual aid gives socialism its strength.

But the road to socialism is no primrose path. People's China, with its legacy of backwardness from the past, has a long way to go before it catches up. However, it is precisely in overcoming difficulties that the Chinese people have mustered the strength for new and still greater advances.

ROUND THE WEEK

A New Autonomous Region

The Kwangsi Autonomous Region of the Chuang people came into being on March 5. The Chuangs, with a population of 7 million, are China's largest national minority. They comprise about 60 per cent of the population of Kwangsi. The new autonomous region is the third in the country. The other two are the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region established on May 1, 1947, and the Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region, founded on October 1, 1955.

To mark this great event in the democratic development of the national minorities, Vice-Premier Ho Lung participated in the inauguration. At the invitation of the Chinese Government, the Viet-Bac Autonomous Region of the Vietnam Democratic Republic sent a 20-man delegation to the inaugural ceremonies.

In pre-liberation China the national

minorities which made up more than 30 million of the population had no rights and were fleeced and oppressed. Things changed completely after liberation. The Constitution adopted in 1954 guarantees equal rights and the conditions for national development to all of China's nationalities. Regional autonomy is given to national minorities living in compact communities and the area inhabited by them may be known as an autonomous region, autonomous *chou* or autonomous county, depending on its size and importance. An autonomous region corresponds to a province, an autonomous county to an ordinary county, and an autonomous *chou*, with no corresponding counterpart, is an intermediate level between the two. All these organs of self-government may draw up separate statutes and regulations to suit their social, economic and cultural development, within the framework of the Constitution.

The proposal to turn Kwangsi into the Chuang Autonomous Region was put forward by the Chinese Communist Party in October 1956. The idea was greeted enthusiastically by the Chuangs, the ten other national groups in the province and the country as a whole. Active preparations went ahead, including the scheme which was initiated in 1954 to give the Chuangs, who were without a written language of any kind, a script to develop their culture. The Chuang people now have their own alphabet.

Most of the Chuangs live in the western part of Kwangsi which used to be a poor and backward province. Even in its more prosperous capital, Nanning, there were only three tumble-down factories before 1949. Now it boasts more than a hundred modern factories and mines with gross industrial output value accounting for 32.5 per cent of the total industrial and agricultural output value of the province. In 1957 the industrial output value increased elevenfold, compared with 1950. It is expected that still greater progress will be made now that regional autonomy provides the national groups in Kwangsi with an opportunity for greater and faster development.

Better Style Leadership

In news from China these days, there's lots about the rectification

campaign. What results is it yielding concretely? Here are some examples of how better styles of leadership are being sought and found in the course of this campaign.

FUHSIN COLLIERY in north-east China made headlines in *Renmin Ribao*, the country's leading newspaper, with sympathetic news. The director, senior functionaries of the Communist Party organization and the trade union chairman of the colliery gave up their more comfortable living quarters and moved into workers' flats with their families. They were welcomed by the workers who took this as part of the effort of their leaders to improve their style of work.

In a socialist society the worker is on equal terms with the leaders of the enterprise. Between them there is division of work, not difference in status and position. But some administrators who have not entirely freed themselves from the influence of the old ruling classes assume bureaucratic airs and keep apart from the workers during and after working hours. The leading personnel of the Fuhsin Colliery, in taking this step to strengthen their ties with the rank and file, struck a demonstrative blow against bureaucracy — one of the targets of the rectification campaign — in the spirit of the mass line of the Chinese Communist Party.

IN WUHAN, the triple-city on the Yangtse River, a shop in a busy thoroughfare was taken over lock, stock and barrel by the Municipal People's Council. The director and section chiefs of the Commercial Administration Bureau all took turns at running the enterprise and serving customers. This opened new worlds of experience to these functionaries who had grown accustomed to sitting in their offices and issuing orders and regulations. A short spell of work behind the counters made them see to their mortification that some of their own regulations were wide off the mark. This way of coming to grips with reality is, in current Chinese political parlance, called "cultivating an experimental farm plot." It is prescribed as a sure cure for subjectivism — another target of the rectification campaign.

It began when Communist Party officials of Hungan County, in Hupeh Province, tried out a new way of giving leadership to the peasants. The Party leaders got technicians and experienced peasants together and joined with them in experiments with various ways of bringing about higher yields. The experience proved successful and profitable to all concerned. It spread to other provinces and to other fields of work. Since then



Chuang festival

Woodcut by Weng Chen-li

the Central Committee of the Communist Party has urged that the principle underlying "the cultivation of an experimental farm plot" should be carried out in all parts of the country, not only in agriculture, but also in industry, education, and cultural work.

The idea of "experimental plots" is to get all leading personnel down to earth and one with the people in order to improve their style of work. The Hungan County Communist Party leadership exemplifies the new way of doing things. Most of the leaders are out in the field, working with the peasants and helping them solve problems on the spot. There are times when no more than nine out of a staff of 76 are in the office. The Party secretaries take their bedding along with them as they move from village to village and are accessible, while they work in the fields, by mobile telephones that they carry with them.

* * *

"PAYING VISITS and holding exhibitions" are additional methods that have become popular. First-hand observation and on-the-spot study of new ways of doing things are most convincing. Seeing is believing. In Hupeh Province alone 500 visits, with 2 million people taking part, were organized in recent months, to see the model water conservancy works in Hsiangyang County, to learn how "experimental plots" were cultivated in Hungan, and to see how Tangyang County revolutionized its means of transport, literally banishing the centuries-old pole-and-basket to the museum. The people and cadres who went saw how and why a particular co-op farm forged ahead of others with similar conditions, or how a particular area, under serious handicaps, performed a feat which seemed impossible at first.

Anhui Province, in central China, provides another example. Its peasants achieved startling success in irrigation work. In four months they moved 12 times as much earth as the builders of the Panama Canal did in a decade. Anhui's record was widely reported, the information was passed on and was recommended for study, yet some people just wouldn't believe that such a "miracle" could have happened. Visits were organized. People went, saw for themselves and came away convinced and anxious to improve their own work.

* * *

MANY VETERANS of the Chinese revolution are now studying in universities and polytechnical schools to acquire the technical know-how for higher level work in national economic construction. This will enhance their leadership. More than 400 are taking special courses and, according to reports, are doing extremely

well, despite the fact that they had a lot of catching up to do academically. At the age when they should have been in school they devoted all of their time to the revolution. Now they have gone back to school again to give better service to the people.

"Letter-Blind" No More

Illiteracy in China can be wiped out in five to seven years, Vice-Premier Chen Yi, who is President of the National Association for the Elimination of Illiteracy, told a conference of literacy teachers and workers that had just ended in Peking. He called for a "cultural atomic blast" to "open the eyes of China's 600 million." He said that the work of wiping out illiteracy and the advancement of science and culture must catch up with the terrific pace of industry and agriculture.

Considering the fact that at least 500 million of China's population are in the rural areas where teaching facilities are short, the battle to make every young and middle-aged Chinese literate during the Second Five-Year Plan is not an easy one. But it can be done. Ningan County in Heilungkiang Province has won national fame for having wiped out illiteracy among the young and middle-aged groups in two years from 1955 to 1957. The county enjoys no special facilities for tackling the job, but the local authorities organized the campaign against illiteracy in such harmony with the people's work schedules that by last winter it lifted virtually every young and middle-aged man and woman out of the state of *wen-mang* (letter-blind), which is the word for illiteracy in Chinese. In the present drive against illiteracy, the first step is to end "letter-blindness," then "culture-blindness" and finally "science-blindness." By eliminating these three "blindnesses" China will bring the final curtain down on the state of cultural backwardness she inherited from past rulers.

If the job is tackled with the same guts and spirit we showed in the liberation war, China can do it, Vice-Premier Chen Yi declared.

7 Million Tons of Steel in 1958

The Ministry of Metallurgy has announced a new target of 7 million tons of steel and 8 million tons of pig iron for 1958. Originally the goal for this year was 6,248,000 tons of steel. The new target means a 33 per cent increase of steel over 1957 and a 35 per cent increase of pig iron.

The tempo of building steel mills will be doubled and for each yuan invested there will be twice as much construction during the Second Five-Year Plan, as

compared with the First. This is possible because of steps already taken to overcome waste and conservative ideas and practices.

Faster Shanghai Express

Passengers on the express run of the 312-kilometre Shanghai-Nanking Railway are spending 69 minutes less on the train. The distance is now done in the record time of 3 hours 52.5 minutes instead of the original 5 hours 2 minutes. Another notable performance by the Shanghai railwaymen is the record they set on March 4 in an emulation drive with their fellow workers at the Peking and Chinchow (north-east China) depots: they completed 1.28 million ton-kilometres per train per day, the highest yet in the railway history of China. A few days later the Peking railwaymen topped this record with a run of 1.34 million ton-kilometres per train.

These are the first contributions of the Shanghai and Peking railwaymen to the current campaign to end waste and conservative ideas and practices in the course of which they have thrown overboard many outmoded conventions, rules and regulations. In terms of economy, what they have done is equivalent to putting at least 30 per cent more wagons on the roads.

The Shanghai and Peking railwaymen are not at all unusual. Similar things are happening in other parts of the country. Men and women everywhere are participating in the battle against waste and conservatism in the present stage of the rectification campaign to improve work in all spheres and are bringing the energies of the nation into full play. It is, as the March 3 directive issued by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party to push the campaign ahead puts it, a campaign to make still greater strides forward in the spheres of production and culture.

Keeping Abreast of the News

Things are moving fast in China. You can't always be up-to-date. Facts and figures available when we go to press may be dated by the time we appear in print.

Last week we reported that in the past four months the peasants, in their unprecedented spurt of digging water conservancy works had brought a million *mou* of new land a day under irrigation. The latest statistics reveal that by February 28 a total of 185,885,500 *mou* of land had been brought under irrigation, making it 1.5 million *mou* a day.

The "Two Chinas" Hoax

by YING TAO

Certain circles in the United States and Britain are trying to concoct a theoretical justification of the American Government's scheme of "two Chinas." But just as the scheme itself flies in the face of reality, so the rationalizations have no tenable basis.

WASHINGTON withholds recognition, but the People's Republic of China continues to grow rapidly in both prestige and strength. And Chinese leaders have made it abundantly clear that China does not care whether or when the United States extends recognition. The U.S. Government, on its part, has gained nothing from its "ostrich" policy except greater isolation and a constant barrage of criticism and ridicule for its unrealistic attitude. To extricate itself from this awkward situation and yet continue its occupation of Taiwan, the United States has been trying to create "two Chinas." The method it now uses is first to create, wherever possible, a state of "two Chinas" in certain international conferences and organizations so as to establish gradually a *fait accompli* of "two Chinas" in international affairs.

The Chinese people's attitude on this question was made clear by Premier Chou En-lai who, in a speech made on February 10 at the National People's Congress, stated: "We will never allow a state of 'two Chinas' to arise in any international organization, conference or occasion. Such is our firm and unshakeable stand."

Trick 1 — Future Status

Rationalizations to underpin the American scheme of "two Chinas" have often been advanced in the United States and Britain. "The question of the future status of Taiwan" is one such sophistry, devised for the imperialist purpose of permanently occupying the island. It made its official debut on June 27, 1950, when President Truman declared, in a statement on U.S. armed intervention in Korea and its simultaneous invasion and occupation of Taiwan:

The determination of the future status of Formosa (Taiwan) must await the restoration of security in the Pacific, a peace settlement with Japan, or consideration by the United Nations.

This theme has been parroted from time to time by some politicians and academic trained seals on both sides of the Atlantic. These pettifoggers have suddenly found that "the question of the legal status of Taiwan has never been settled" and that "legally, the Cairo Declaration (of 1943) does not say to whom Taiwan should belong." Some went so far as to put up the absurd proposition that: "Legally speaking, Taiwan remains Japanese territory."

History, however, gives them all the lie. Its indelible record is that Taiwan has been Chinese territory since

ancient times. One eloquent proof of this is the Treaty of Shimonoseki of 1895, in which the Japanese seized the island after their first war against China. It provided that "China cedes to Japan . . . the island of Formosa, together with all islands appertaining or belonging to the said island of Formosa." The same terms were later incorporated in the protocol on the transfer of the island signed by the feeble and traitorous Manchu government with Japan. Since the sovereignty was "ceded," it follows that the territory ceded was historically Chinese, as recognized even by the annexing imperialists.

The Japanese occupation of Taiwan was simple robbery at the point of the sword; and the Treaty of Shimonoseki was a predatory one. The Chinese people on the island never recognized this result of alien aggression, and fought against it from start to finish, rising repeatedly against Japanese rule to demand reunion with the motherland; while the Chinese people on the mainland never relaxed their efforts to abolish all unequal treaties which had been pushed down China's throat by aggressors and to restore all her lost territories including Taiwan. They were and are as fully justified in demanding that Taiwan be restored, as any owner is in claiming the return of his stolen property.

Cairo and Potsdam Declarations

The Cairo Declaration signed by the Chinese, U.S. and British Governments on December 1, 1943 recognized and reaffirmed the Chinese people's right to Taiwan. The three signatories to the declaration stated:

It is their purpose . . . that all the territories Japan has stolen from the Chinese, such as Manchuria, Formosa and the Pescadores (Penghu Islands), shall be restored to the Republic of China.

These terms of the Cairo Declaration were further confirmed by the Potsdam Declaration signed by China, the United States and Britain on July 26, 1945, and later adhered to by the Soviet Union. Article 8 of the Potsdam Declaration stated:

The terms of the Cairo Declaration shall be carried out and Japanese sovereignty shall be limited to the islands of Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu, Shikoku and such minor islands as we determine.

These two major inter-allied declarations of World War II are international documents having legal binding force. They constitute the juridical basis of dealings with Japan, a defeated aggressor in that war. Japan accepted these terms in the Instrument of Surrender which she signed on September 2, 1945. The two documents expressly laid it down that Taiwan is part of China's territory and should be restored to China. It is thus nonsense as well as a flagrant violation of the terms of the Cairo

and Potsdam Declarations to pretend that "the future status of Taiwan" is a legal "question" of any kind.

The Cairo and Potsdam Declarations were actually put into effect. Taiwan, after the Japanese surrender, was restored to the then Chinese Government whose representative went there to take over and on October 25, 1945 declared in a broadcast:

From today on, Taiwan and the Penghu Islands are once again officially incorporated into the map of China.

At the time of the founding of the People's Republic of China in October 1949, Taiwan had already been restored to China for four years—during which no such thing as "the question of the future status of Taiwan" was raised by anyone. Even President Truman, the same Truman who later arbitrarily invented it, declared as late as January 5, 1950: ". . . for the past four years the United States and the other Allied Powers have accepted the exercise of Chinese authority over the island (Taiwan)." On the same day, Dean Acheson, the then U.S. Secretary of State, said:

. . . the Chinese have administered Formosa for four years. Neither the United States nor any other ally even questioned that authority and that occupation. When Formosa was made a province of China nobody raised any lawyer's doubt about it. It was regarded as being in accordance with the commitments.

From this it can be seen that no "question of the future status of Taiwan" exists—and that what passes for it was manufactured on the spur of the moment in June 1950 as a fig-leaf for the American adventure then launched.

In 1949, the Chinese people overthrew the Chiang Kai-shek regime and established a government of their own choice. According to generally recognized principles of international law, Taiwan should then have come automatically under the Government of the Chinese People's Republic. The use of U.S. forces to prevent this is illegal, because no foreign country is entitled to meddle with the Chinese people's choice of the kind of government they want, which is their own affair. A new government succeeds to all territories under the jurisdiction of an overthrown government. This not only accords with the nature of things but has been confirmed in the practice of many revolutions, including the French bourgeois revolution.

The U.S. aggressors have raised this artificial question of the "future status of Taiwan" to prop up the rump Chiang regime and prevent the Chinese people from completing the liberation of their territory, Taiwan. This is interference in China's internal affairs. It constitutes a violation of her sovereignty and territorial integrity. In no circumstances will the Chinese people allow this.

Trick 2—False Analogies

Another argument to justify the "two Chinas"

scheme is the spurious comparison its U.S. advocates have made with the temporary division of East and West Germany, North and South Korea, and North and South Viet-nam. This analogy is absurd because:

Taiwan is a part of Chinese territory stolen by Japan, and China was a victor country in the anti-fascist war. Just for that reason, Taiwan was treated in a different way from Germany and Korea in the Cairo, Potsdam and Yalta Declarations. The Cairo Declaration expressly stated that Taiwan should be restored to China. With regard to Germany, the Yalta Declaration—signed by the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union on February 11, 1945—provided that after the crushing of Hitler's armed forces, "the forces of the three powers will each occupy a separate zone of Germany." It is clear that the treatment of Germany in the Yalta Declaration is fundamentally different from the treatment of Taiwan in the Cairo Declaration.

Korea's situation was also different from Taiwan's. During the war against Japan and after the Japanese surrender, the Soviet and U.S. forces, in accordance with the agreements reached among the allied countries, advanced into North and South Korea on either side of the 38th Parallel, and thus placed Korea under temporary zonal occupation.

Germany and Korea

The occupation of separate zones of Germany and Korea by the Allied Powers was not intended to divide them permanently. As the terms of the Yalta Declaration made abundantly clear, the purpose of the occupation of Germany is:

. . . to destroy German militarism and Nazi-ism and to ensure that Germany will never again be able to disturb the peace of the world . . . only when Nazi-ism and militarism has been extirpated, will there be hope for a decent life for Germans, and a place for them in the comity of nations.

The military occupation of Korea by the Soviet and U.S. forces was aimed at:

. . . the creation of conditions for developing the country on democratic principles and the earliest possible liquidation of the disastrous results of the protracted Japanese domination in Korea.

It was further aimed at:

. . . helping and assisting the political, economic and social progress of the Korean people, the development of democratic self-government and the establishment of the national independence of Korea. (The communique of the Moscow Conference of Foreign Ministers issued on December 27, 1945.)

At no international conference and in no international document relating to Germany and Korea has anything ever been said about the permanent division of the two countries. On the contrary, they are expected to become united and independent on the basis of peace and democracy.

The occupation powers undertook the obligation to help them achieve this end. But the U.S. imperialists openly violated their obligation when on May 11, 1948, under their aegis, a separate "election" was held in South



Korea, and the Syngman Rhee puppet regime was established as a result. Similarly, in September 1949, the "Federal Republic of Germany" was established in the U.S., British and French controlled zones of Germany. It was to offset the designs of the United States to split their countries that the Korean and German peoples established the Korean Democratic People's Republic in September 1948 and the German Democratic Republic in October 1949 — in order to safeguard the fruits of their revolutions and rally all the forces that were striving for peaceful unification. Today, the questions of German and Korean unity remain as important outstanding issues in world affairs, and both peoples continue their struggles to achieve nation-wide unity on the basis of peace and democracy.

The question of Taiwan, an essentially different one from those of Korea and Germany, involved the restoration of a part of Chinese territory stolen by the Japanese aggressor. Its restoration to the then Chinese Government after Japan's surrender closed this question for good. Aggressive circles in the United States are faking, but faking in vain, when they try to rig up a non-existing "question of the status of Taiwan" and put it on the same level as the question of artificially divided Germany and Korea.

The Case of Viet-nam

As for Viet-nam, the other example cited, its division is a result of the deliberate violation by the U.S.-backed Ngo Dinh Diem clique in South Viet-nam of the resolutions of the 1954 Geneva Conference. It was provided that national free elections should be held in Viet-nam

no later than July 1956 in order to achieve unity on a democratic basis. But the Ngo Dinh Diem regime refused to carry out the provisions laid down to achieve this. The Government and people of the Democratic Republic of Viet-nam, as well as their compatriots in the southern part of the country, are making great efforts to reunite the country.

International law requires that treaty obligations be honoured. The refusal by the United States to observe the international agreements aimed at uniting Korea, Germany and Viet-nam is a flagrant violation of international law. That this illegality should be invoked as a pretext for committing another — the occupation of the Chinese territory of Taiwan — is not only absurd but indicates the degree to which the imperialists have lost their senses.

Advocates of the "two Chinas" scheme have also harped on such absurd propositions as the "neutralization" or "autonomy" of Taiwan and "placing Taiwan under U.N. trusteeship." These propositions are based on the same old major premise that "the status of Taiwan" is still unsettled. We have already shown that this premise is indefensible, so it remains only to say that to tear away a part of the territory of a sovereign state for "neutralization," "autonomy" or "trusteeship" is nothing but a breach of the Charter of the United Nations.

Taiwan is Chinese territory. The Chinese people are determined to liberate Taiwan and will under no circumstances waver in their determination. The U.S. imperialists are bound to fail in any trick to achieve a contrary result, whether it is a "legal" trick or any other kind.

Theory

Balance — Imbalance — New Balance

人民日报

Following is the full text of the editorial in the Peking "Renmin Ribao" of February 28, 1958, which we referred to briefly last week. In the Chinese original it was entitled "Away with the Old Balance; On to a New Balance."

OF late, our press has been carrying many news items that are really inspiring; many provinces are determined to fulfil the tasks projected in the National Agricultural Development Programme in five, six or seven years instead of the suggested ten. There is also news that the local industries in many provinces are expecting to expand several fold in the coming five years instead of increasing 20, 30, 50 per cent or more. In Kansu Province, for example, it was decided that, by the efforts of the entire population of the province, the total output value of local industries will be 16 to 19 times as great as it is today in five years' time. The new industrial output value there will be on a par with, or even greater than, the agricultural output value of the province.

All such news lead us to the belief that the local leadership as well as the leadership of various depart-

ments have now freed themselves from the bondage of conservative ideas, that they are courageous enough to set new tasks for themselves, bold enough to mobilize the masses with a free hand for a leap in socialist construction. Their thinking has gone ahead, they are energetic and they know where they are going.

Some people feel both happy and worried about the great leap forward that is now taking place in industry and agriculture and the new tasks and targets put forward by many of the provinces and departments. While they are glad they have doubts as to whether these ambitious plans can be fulfilled. They are worried that the equilibrium of the national economy will be upset, that imbalances will follow and everything will be in a mess. As they see it, taking things easy and maintaining a balanced development is normal while rapid advance, getting some things to move ahead and letting others lag, is in their view abnormal and unusual.

Is it true that equilibrium is a good thing and disequilibrium something to fear? The answer is no. Lenin

in his *On Dialectics* wrote: "The unity (coincidence, identity, resultant) of opposites is conditional, temporary, transitory, relative. The struggle of mutually exclusive opposites is absolute, just as development and motion are absolute." "Resultant" here means equilibrium which is relative; only disequilibrium is absolute. Chairman Mao Tse-tung also categorically indicated in his *On Contradiction*: "In any contradiction, the development of the contradictory aspects is uneven. Sometimes there seems to be a balance of forces, but that is only a temporary and relative state; the basic state is unevenness." In his famous speech *On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People*, Chairman Mao again noted: "By 'balance' we mean a temporary, relative unity of opposites. By the end of each year, such a balance, taken as a whole, is upset by the struggle of opposites, the unity achieved undergoes a change, balance becomes imbalance, unity becomes disunity, and once again it is necessary to work out a balance and unity for the next year. This is the superior quality of our planned economy. As a matter of fact, this balance and unity is partially upset every month and every quarter, and partial readjustments are called for." This means that in all things disequilibrium is constant and absolute, while equilibrium is temporary and relative, to be realized only under certain conditions. This also means that it is entirely normal that in the development of all things, contradictions exist and disequilibrium appears while equilibrium, the unity of contradictions, is unusual. Some people see this problem in reverse and inevitably fall into the trap of metaphysics.

Law of Development

Objective reality constantly shows us that the initiative and creativeness of the masses, and the new-born forces, collide with the old things every minute and every hour, challenging the old quotas, the old targets, the old regulations and institutions. This is the contest between the advanced and the backward, between the new and the old. In this contest, the old equilibrium will certainly be broken and disequilibrium is bound to appear. Once readjustments are made, the disequilibrium can then be transformed into a new equilibrium and a new step forward will be taken. During the period of China's First Five-Year Plan, disequilibrium constantly popped up between industry and agriculture, between the raw material industry and the processing industry, or between construction and the standard of living and, generally speaking, between social production and social needs. But through a proper readjustment of the national plan, the disequilibrium was transformed into a new equilibrium, and the national economy, in this way, progressed rapidly.

From equilibrium to disequilibrium and then to a new equilibrium — this is the law of development of all things. It is through this spiral cycle of "equilibrium — disequilibrium — new equilibrium" that things can advance constantly. The objective law does not change according to human will; we can only take advantage of it and be guided by it, but cannot change it as we please. If man's thinking runs counter to what is demanded by the objective law, then things will not be done well but will be turned upside down.

We have had much experience in this respect, and have learned many lessons. Take the year 1956 for in-

stance. In that year, China's socialist construction, propelled by the high tide of socialist transformation of private industry and commerce, agriculture and handicraft industry, made tremendous progress. Total industrial output, in terms of value, increased by 31 per cent and agricultural production, despite serious natural calamities, grew by 4.9 per cent. One-third of the capital construction envisaged in the Five-Year Plan was completed in that single year. This was obviously a very great leap forward. At that time, however, some people were stunned by the disequilibrium in the development of the national economy caused by these leaps. These people saw only the unavoidable and temporary difficulties in the course of progress brought about by such disequilibrium, thought that there were difficulties everywhere and were terrified. This was due to the fact that they lacked a correct understanding of the objective law of development of things, did not properly estimate the power of the Communist Party and the masses to overcome difficulties. That is why they erroneously raised the slogan "Oppose too hasty progress" which threw cold water on the enthusiasm of the masses surging at that time. Now the new high tide of socialist construction has come, and we must benefit from experience and learn our lessons. We must adopt a correct attitude and correct methods.

Two Lines of Approach

As has been repeatedly pointed out by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, there are two lines of approach to fulfilling a task. One is to do things faster and better; the other is to do things slower and poorly. These two lines of approach and divergent attitudes to the question of equilibrium often result in two different methods of work. One is the positive method, i.e. to spare no effort to support the energetic initiative and creativeness of the masses, to foster the growth of the new and make the backward catch up with the advanced. The other is the negative method, to have no confidence in, and not to rely on, the strength of the masses, to be indifferent to the new, even suppress its growth, and restrain the advanced to the pace of the backward. Clearly, the former method will enable us to develop our cause quicker and better; the latter will only make the development of our cause slower and poorer. We must adhere firmly to the former method and cast aside the latter method.

These two methods of work manifest themselves in planning in two different methods of achieving balance. One method is to adopt a positive attitude to resolve disequilibrium, constantly raising backward targets and quotas so that they are brought into line with advanced targets and advanced quotas. This is the positive way of achieving equilibrium. The other method is to adopt

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COMING

The Great Debate on the Literary Front

by Chou Yang

Selections from the article reviewing the great debate and the struggle against the rightists in Chinese literary circles will appear in *Peking Review* in two instalments starting next week.

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a negative attitude to resolving disequilibrium, constantly trying to bring down advanced targets and quotas and restrict them to the level of the backward targets and quotas. This is the negative way of achieving equilibrium. These are two diametrically opposed ways of achieving equilibrium in planning, manifestations of two opposite ways of thinking in the minds of the people. To achieve a positive equilibrium, one must be imbued with enthusiasm, always keep an eye open and seek out the advanced and the new. One has to get out of the office, go out among the masses, be confident in, and rely on, the strength of the people and not stay indoors counting figures.

In the development of the national economy, there must be equilibrium between production and needs, between one department and another, between one place and another. If the state of disequilibrium is allowed to take its own course, it is quite possible that dislocation will occur in certain branches of the national economy. This, of course, is not what we want and is impermissible. The superiority of our planned economy lies precisely in the fact that we are able to readjust the activities of various branches in the national economy frequently. In this way we completely avoid the economic crises that recur in the capitalist world, and accelerate the rate of progress of our national economy. We acknowledge that in the development of all things disequilibrium appears constantly and is absolute, and in no way prevents us from bringing about a new equilibrium. On the contrary, precisely because disequilibrium exists constantly we must make readjustments all the time. The core of the question is what attitude and what methods we should adopt. If we organize equilibrium positively and in a correct way we are propellers of progress; otherwise we are conservatives and run the danger of becoming retarders.

Positive Attitude, Positive Method

Today, as we are discussing and working out the plan for 1958, we must pay particular attention to the method of organizing equilibrium. Here the Chungking Iron and Steel Company serves as an example. Originally the capacity of this company to roll steel was greater than its capacity to smelt steel which in turn was greater than its capacity to smelt iron. When the company first worked out its production plan for 1958, it organized equilibrium on the basis of its backward sectors. From this vantage point total output value could only be increased less than 5 per cent over 1957; steel output less than 10 per cent; steel products only 5 per cent while cost of production could be reduced by only 3.6 per cent. Later the workers and administrative staff were called together to discuss this plan. The company was determined to break through the backward sectors and organize equilibrium on the basis of the more advanced sectors. As a result, total output value will be increased by 8.5 per cent compared with 1957; steel output by 17.86 per cent; steel products by 11.71 per cent; and cost of production will be reduced by 7.2 per cent. This shows that it is wrong to organize equilibrium with a negative attitude and a negative method and it is correct to organize equilibrium only with a positive attitude and a positive method.

Some people think that things will become tense if equilibrium is organized in a positive manner. True, this

is bound to happen. Things will certainly become tense when the backward has to catch up with the advanced and the advanced has to become still more advanced. Things will certainly become tense when the new is encouraged to grow faster and the old made to die sooner. The question is: Are we to rest content with the economic and cultural backwardness in our country rather than change this situation quickly? If we are not content to lag, then we must work hard to catch up. We must always bear this in mind that externally imperialism still exists. The imperialists do not seem resigned to their failures and will certainly struggle to the very last. We must fortify ourselves with revolutionary drive, allow no waste of time and beat the imperialists in rate of progress, surpass them in industry, agriculture and other fields and safeguard the security of our country. At home, the tasks of our socialist revolution are not yet fully completed and socialist construction in our country may be said to have just started. Only after several decades of painstaking struggle, only when our social forces of production are fully developed, can we rid ourselves of economic and cultural backwardness. We must, therefore, make energetic efforts to carry on our socialist construction. If we stretch ourselves now, we can be less taut in the future; if we do not stretch ourselves now we could be more tense in the future.

For the victory of socialist construction in China we must oppose the philistine theory of equilibrium, or balance, and oppose the passive method of achieving equilibrium. As soon as we have freed ourselves from the bondage of this philistine theory of equilibrium, we will be bold enough to advance with seven league boots.

On Contradiction

by Mao Tse-tung

On Contradiction, a companion-piece to *On Practice*, is an important philosophical essay on dialectics written by Chairman Mao Tse-tung in 1937. In this work he scientifically expounds the theory of the law of the unity of contradiction, and applies it in explaining the policies and problems of the Chinese revolution.

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“Sore Thumb” in Asia

WHEN the Chinese People's Volunteers (C.P.V.) pull out from Korea, “it will leave the two atomic-equipped U.S. divisions sitting in South Korea and sticking out like a sore thumb on the Asian mainland,” wrote the INS correspondent in Tokyo when the C.P.V.'s forthcoming withdrawal was announced. This American “sore thumb” is already so conspicuous that public opinion in Asia and the world is demanding that Washington remove it forthwith.

The press in Asia has reacted warmly to the Korean-Chinese peace initiative. “We welcome the decision on the withdrawal of the C.P.V. from North Korea,” declared the Hindi daily **Hindustan**, “the other side should take a similar step.” The **Free Press Journal** of India said that the decision would “reduce tension further” and “improve prospects of a settlement on the divided peninsula.” The Bengali daily **Swadhinata** congratulated China and Korea on taking this “unilateral measure” which “has earned the gratitude of the world.”

In Burma, the **Rangoon Daily** pointed out in an article—even before the C.P.V. decision was announced—that if the C.P.V. were withdrawn, “it will only be fair that the U.S. troops in South Korea should also be withdrawn.” The Cambodian **Prochiachon** (People) declares that the Chinese decision made it clearer than ever to the world that the Chinese Government and people sincerely want peace and that now the world is waiting for America to take a similar decision. The editorial opinion of **Asahi Shimbun**, one of the leading Japanese papers, is that withdrawal of the C.P.V. on their own initiative opens a new stage in the settling of the Korean question. “Peking and Pyongyang have powerfully promoted a move for the pacification and reunification of Korea,” says the **Pakistan Times**.

Public opinion in the socialist countries, of course, unanimously and whole-heartedly supports the Korean-Chinese action as a move for peace. The socialist camp, as the **Neues Deutschland** of Democratic Germany points out, has already done much to relax international tension. World public opinion now demands an answer to the question: When will the West consider taking similar steps? **Nhandan** of Viet-nam says that withdrawal of the C.P.V. as well as the further reduction of Soviet troops in Germany demonstrates that the socialist countries stand for peace and that their strength, surpassing that of the imperialists, can smash all their schemes.

Pravda of the Soviet Union, while hailing the joint Sino-Korean statement, further points out that in view of the fact that Korea has been divided for 12 years and the necessary confidence is lacking in relations between the two parts of Korea, the Soviet Government deems it expedient to hold a meeting of the countries concerned to discuss measures conducive to a rapprochement between both parts of Korea.

These are only a few of the many expressions of world public opinion acclaiming the Korean-Chinese move.

Reports from faraway Stockholm, for instance, show that news of the Korean-Chinese statement was carried by **Ny Dag**, **Morgon Tidningen**, **Svenska Dagbladet** and other papers. **Ny Dag** declared that the decision of the C.P.V. was helpful to the easing of international tension and that the continued stay of U.S. troops in South Korea was unjustified.

Washington on the Spot

Washington, however, has not so far lived up to the expectations of the world. “The way the U.S. State Department has reacted to the Chinese-North Korean move,” as the **Pakistan Times** says, “is disappointing in the extreme; and if the United States persists in refusing to pull out its troops on one pretext or another, its intentions will become suspect in Asian eyes.”

U.S. officialdom has again harped on the old tune that the Korean-Chinese side should accept U.N. instead of neutral nations supervision of Korean elections. But as the Indian paper **National Herald** rightly points out, this “is asking for too much, for the United Nations which was a party to the war in Korea can never be accepted as impartial by North Korea.” The West German paper **Koelner Stadt Anzeiger** also says that withdrawal of the C.P.V. and the agreement by North Korea to free elections throughout the country meets the principal condition for Korea's peaceful unification.

The Western bourgeois press has not found it so easy to brush aside the significant Korean-Chinese measures. The London **Times** says editorially that “the North Korean proposals should be considered.” Meanwhile, the Western press has to admit that the Korean-Chinese initiative has “left the United States in an awkward spot” (INS). “There is no question,” writes a UP dispatch from Taipeh, that the Korean-Chinese announcement “has placed the United States on the defensive.” **Koelner Stadt Anzeiger** of West Germany also says that the voluntary nature of the C.P.V.'s withdrawal faces the West with the threat of a big defeat, not only as regards propaganda but politically. And many West German papers were sceptical whether the United States can extricate itself from its passive position.

The first stage of the C.P.V.'s withdrawal will be completed before April 30. “Awkward,” “Passive,” “Embarrassing,” these are the gibes addressed to Washington as it stands in the floodlight at the bar of world public opinion. If the promised withdrawal of the Chinese Volunteers is completed on schedule, the Indian paper **Hindustan Times** says, “the world at large will be enabled to have a better appreciation of what exactly it is that stands in the way of Korean reunification.” And the Bulgarian paper **Trud** drives the point home when it declares: “The U.S. rulers will have to withdraw their troops if they do not want to expose themselves, in spite of all their bragging about peace, as incurable hypocrites and war maniacs.”

New Tempo for Agriculture

by CHU CHI-LIN

Industry and agriculture are closely related. In China today, both are moving ahead at high speed. Their simultaneous development on the basis of priority for heavy industry is China's basic economic policy for the coming years.

CHINA'S industrial and agricultural production are in a new phase of upsurge. Since last September, when the policy of "simultaneously developing industry and agriculture on the basis of priority for heavy industry" was laid down, efforts to boost farm production have gathered momentum.

Winter, which used to be a slack season for rural work, has become one of feverish activity. Over 100 million peasants pitched in to build irrigation works and collect manure. In five months from October 1 to the end of February — more than 185 million *mou* had been added to China's irrigated area. This is more than two-thirds as much as all the land irrigated in the four thousand years of Chinese history before liberation. In many provinces the plan is to reach the per-unit-area crop yields specified in the National Programme for Agricultural Development (1956-67) as many as five years ahead of schedule.

Upsurge of Output

This "leap forward" in agriculture provides the impelling power for a further swift advance of industry. The machine-building industry plans to supply, during this year, the farms with pumps for irrigation and drainage with a total of half a million horsepower — just about equal the total capacity already at work in the fields. Yet, there are cries for more, more, and more! Other industries, particularly the chemical fertilizers industry, are under similar pressure.

The year 1958 is also one of industrial construction on an unprecedented scale. It is expected that a new major factory or mine will be completed and go into production every 46 hours. Industrial output will rise by 14.6 per cent. And the workers are emulating each other to overfulfil this plan.

The two waves of industrial and agricultural production are merging and pushing each other forward. Though it has been put into practice for only a few months, the policy of "simultaneously developing industry and agriculture" is already showing its vitality in real facts.

A year ago, Chairman Mao Tse-tung said of China's path to industrialization in his famous speech *On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People*:

"Heavy industry is the core of China's economic construction. This must be affirmed. But, at the same time, full attention must be paid to the development of agriculture and light industry. . . . As China is a great agricultural country, with over 80 per cent of her population in the village, her industry and agriculture must be developed simultaneously. Only then will industry have raw materials and a market, and only so will it be possible to accumulate fairly large funds for the building up of a powerful heavy industry."

Importance of Agriculture

Agriculture has always received considerable attention. "We are determined to develop industry," stated the First Five-Year Plan, "but we must on no account overlook the importance of developing our agriculture. Practical life has, in fact, brought home to us the tremendous importance of agriculture to the growth of industry. We cannot industrialize our country without adequately developing our agriculture."

Thanks to the efforts made in the period of the First Five-Year Plan, China has laid down a preliminary groundwork for her industrialization. Now the time is ripe to advance, on the basis of priority for heavy industry, the principle of simultaneous development of industry and agriculture. This principle is, in fact, a way of making sure that construction — with heavy industry as the core — can be carried on more effectively. It is designed to ensure that national construction is constantly expanded and the people's living steadily improved.

The importance of agriculture to industry was made clear by the actual progress of the First Five-Year Plan. The rich harvests of 1952 and 1955, for instance, resulted in comparatively rapid advances in the national economy in 1953 and 1956, the industrial output (excluding handicraft production) increasing 31.7 per cent and 31.1 per cent respectively as compared with the previous year. The development of the national economy in 1955 and 1957, on the other hand, had to contend with the drag of the crop failures in 1954 and 1956. Total industrial output grew only 7.3 per cent in 1955 and 6.9 per cent in 1957.

The reasons for the profound influence of agriculture on China's national economy can be summarized as follows:

First, though China's industry has made great headway in the past few years, agriculture is still dominant. In 1957, it still accounts for nearly half of the value of industrial and agricultural output combined. By net output value (i.e. the value of total output minus that of the

materials expended), agriculture accounts for nearly two-thirds. In other words, it is the main source of China's national income, of which it provided about one half.

Secondly, about half of the industrial production relies mainly on raw materials from agriculture; for light industry the proportion is four-fifths. Therefore the growth of industrial production, particularly in consumer goods, is largely determined by the growth of agriculture.

Thirdly, about 80 per cent of all goods sold on the home market consist of farm produce or processed farm produce. About three-quarters of China's export goods are agricultural products or their derivatives. A good or bad crop also affects home and foreign trade.

Fourthly, about 55 per cent of the state revenue is drawn, directly or indirectly, from agriculture. The state revenue went up 23.9 per cent in 1953, and 15.8 per cent in 1956. In 1955, revenue increased only 3.7 per cent; in 1957, it increased only 6.8 per cent.

Lastly, China's vast rural areas offer the biggest market for her industry. The monetary income of the peasants makes up about 60 per cent of that of the whole nation. Most consumer goods are sold to the peasants, and their demand for hard goods is mounting daily. Growth in agriculture, and consequently in the rural market, is a stimulus to the development of industry.

Thus, it will readily be seen that the acceleration of agricultural development will not retard the advance of industry. On the contrary, it will step up industrial growth by speeding raw material production, expanding the home market, and increasing capital accumulation.

Balanced Growth of the Economy

From the point of view of the balance of the whole national economy, the simultaneous development of industry and agriculture is also imperative. The production of capital goods must meet the needs of national construction, and the production of consumer goods must meet the rising everyday needs of the people. In recent years, national construction and people's purchasing power have grown to such an extent that both capital and consumer goods tended to be in short supply.

But these two types of shortages are different in nature, and cannot be dealt with in the same way. In the case of capital goods, production is quite regular and its growth fairly rapid; it is comparatively easy to bring the demand for them under control by regulating the speed of capital construction — or in some cases to fill gaps by imports from abroad. But with consumer goods, it is another story. Their production is not so regular and their growth is slower. Furthermore, population increase and the improvement of living standards make demand rise very fast, in a way difficult to control. It is also quite impossible to import any appreciable proportion of China's vast needs in consumer goods. This renders the development of agriculture and light industry all the more necessary.

The tempo of agricultural advance in China, as may be seen from the fulfilment of the First Five-Year Plan, has been fairly rapid. The average annual rate of growth of the total value of agricultural output between 1953

and 1957 was 4.5 per cent, exceeding the planned rate of 4.3 per cent.

Grain Output Will Double

Nonetheless, taking into consideration the constant rise in production under the socialist system, the growing needs of the people, the rapidly growing demands of national construction and the high speed of industrial development, China's agriculture is still lagging. To stimulate its further progress, the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party put forward, in January 1956, a Draft National Programme for the Development of Agriculture, 1956-1967. This draft programme was revised last year and made public for general discussion.

According to this revised draft programme, by 1967, the nation's grain output will be two and a half times that in the rich harvest year 1955; its cotton output thrice as great. Big advances are also called for in other activities connected with agriculture — such as rural trade, communications and transport, the fight against serious diseases, elimination of illiteracy, improvement of housing, etc. This is a great programme for building up a socialist Chinese countryside totally different from the old.

Is it possible to carry it out?

Although the time when China can avert all natural calamities will not come soon, and she still lacks capital and equipment for rapid mechanization of agriculture or large-scale reclamation of wasteland, conditions for the development of agriculture are already far better than during the First Five-Year Plan.

Foremost among the changes is the transformation of small-peasant economy into co-operative economy. At the start of the First Five-Year Plan, the former was still dominant in China, which had then only 3,644 agricultural producers' co-operatives, mostly elementary in form. But by the start of the Second Five-Year Plan the socialist transformation of agriculture was virtually complete; we now have socialist co-operative farming.

The advantages of co-operative farming have been proved by facts of the past years. (See *Peking Review*, March 4.)

More Yield per Mou

Today the chief way to increase agricultural production is to raise yields per unit area. In this connection, the gradual technical improvement of agriculture is required.

After the completion of the First Five-Year Plan, China's industry is in a better position to give support to agriculture. During the Second Five-Year Plan, the tractor plants in Loyang and Tientsin will begin operation, supplying the countryside with various types of tractors. The engineering industries will be sending to the countryside large quantities of irrigation pumps, harvesters, cultivators, tractor sowers, threshers and means of trans-

CHINESE WEIGHTS and MEASURES at a GLANCE

1 mou=0.06 hectare or 0.1647 acre

1 *tan* (picul)=0.05 ton or 0.984 hundredweight

1 *chin* (catty)=0.5 kilogramme or 1.1023 pounds

port — all specially designed for use in the Chinese countryside.

In chemical industry, China today is making complete plant equipment. Her 1957 output of chemical fertilizers was about 800,000 tons, by 1962 it should be more than 10 million tons. With the development of chemical industry, the production of artificial and synthetic fibres will also grow fairly rapidly. This will make it possible to cut the acreage of industrial crops, and grow more food crops. The fuel and communications industries will also give more support to agriculture.

Since the state will be investing more in farming, and the co-operative farms will have accumulated more funds, the expansion of productive facilities in agriculture during the Second Five-Year Plan will be doubly guaranteed. In the First Five-Year Plan state investments in agriculture, forestry and water conservancy were set at 5.9 per cent of the total; in actual fact, however, they occupied 8 per cent. The Second Five-Year Plan calls for more than 10 per cent of the total state investment to go into agriculture.

During the First Five-Year Plan, the peasants themselves accumulated funds amounting to 12,000 million yuan; in the second plan period, the amount may be 50 per cent higher.

The First Five-Year Plan included some 100 big (high-investment) construction projects in agriculture, forestry and water conservancy. They will be making a further contribution to agriculture.

Finally, in the past few years, the Chinese Communist Party and the People's Government, at both national and local levels, have amassed much useful experience in guiding agricultural production. Yields of 1,000 catties per *mou* for food crops, and 100 catties per *mou* for ginned cotton, are no longer unusual. When the secret of these successes is shared among many, the cumulative results will be immense.

Last year, during the rectification campaign, there had been debates in the countryside on the subject of which road China's farming is to take, the capitalist or the socialist. The peasants, since these discussions, have more consciously and unanimously condemned the capitalist way, which enriches the few and ruins the many. Having come to realize the merits and promise of socialism, they are now keener than ever in their work.

Priority for Heavy Industry

Greater emphasis on agriculture, of course, does not mean that industry will not be vigorously promoted. Industry is the leading force of the national economy and heavy industry is the material basis for expanded socialist reproduction. Therefore, heavy industry will continue to be given priority. During the Second Five-Year Plan, it is expected to more than double its output. And those branches which are of direct or indirect service to agriculture will achieve an even higher rate of growth.

The two-pronged development of industry and agriculture will accelerate the building of socialism in China.

Language Reform

Making Chinese Easier to Learn

by WEI CHUEH

Member of the Standing Committee of the Committee for Reforming the Chinese Written Language

THE adoption of the Scheme for the Chinese* Phonetic Alphabet is a big event in China's cultural life. The alphabet, consisting of the 26 Latin letters, will be gradually popularized all over the country for phonetic annotation of the Chinese characters. It will make Chinese easier to learn for beginners and help to popularize the "common speech."

The present tasks in the reform of the Chinese language are threefold: the simplification of the Chinese characters; the devising and popularization of the Scheme for the Chinese Phonetic Alphabet and the spreading of the "common speech." Work on the first two began with

*We are speaking here of the language of the majority (Han) people of China. Most of her minority nationalities have their own languages.

the founding of the Committee for Reforming the Chinese Written Language in 1952. The third was added to the programme in 1955.

Simplifying the Chinese Characters

A "Draft Scheme for Simplifying the Chinese Characters" was published in January 1955 and submitted to the public for its opinions. Discussions were held across the country. It is estimated that more than 200,000 persons participated. After studying the views expressed, the committee revised the Scheme and submitted it to the State Council which approved and promulgated it in January 1956.

Simplification of the Chinese characters means: (1) reduction of strokes; and (2) abolition of duplicate and multiple characters with the same sound and meaning.

Below are some of the simplified characters (with phonetic annotation in the Wade system, customary in English transliteration), as compared with their complex forms in brackets:

头 (頭) <i>t'ou</i> , head	礼 (禮) <i>li</i> , manners
万 (萬) <i>wan</i> , ten thousand	压 (壓) <i>ya</i> , to press
双 (雙) <i>shuang</i> , a pair	战 (戰) <i>chan</i> , to fight
声 (聲) <i>sheng</i> , sound	丽 (麗) <i>li</i> , beautiful
体 (體) <i>t'i</i> , body	铁 (鐵) <i>t'ieh</i> , iron

It should be mentioned that many of the simplified characters were invented a long time ago by the people and have long been in use in handwritten script. Taking the 544 complex characters already simplified, we find that they had an average of roughly 16 strokes; while their simplified forms have an average of 8 strokes. This means a saving of about half of the writing time, to say nothing of time saved in learning.

Some characters have duplicate forms; others have three or four forms; still others five or six. Below are some examples:

杯盃 (2 forms) <i>pei</i> , cup
炮砲礮 (3 forms) <i>p'ao</i> , cannon
仿衍倂髡 (4 forms) <i>fang</i> , like, resembling
咱嗜嗜借借 (5 forms) <i>tsan</i> , I, or "you and me"
窗窻窻窻 (6 forms) <i>ch'uang</i> , window

By selecting one character from each group and eliminating the others, the committee has abolished 1,055 duplicate and multiple characters, with the resultant economy in learning and in printing.

Work on the simplification of characters is still going on.

Popularizing the "Common Speech"

The move in the direction of standard speech meets a real popular demand for a very simple reason. People have long felt the inconvenience of varying local pronunciations which make it hard, and sometimes impossible, for natives of different localities to understand one another.

The "common speech" was historically developed from what was formerly called "Mandarin" abroad, which was spoken by about 70 per cent of the Chinese people (not including those using national minority languages). It grew out of the dialect originally spoken in north China. As Peking has been for hundreds of years the political and cultural centre of China, the Peking pronunciation has gradually become its standard.

Since February 1956, when the State Council issued a directive on the popularization of the "common speech," over 721,600 middle school and primary school teachers have been trained to use it in teaching. Tens of millions of primary school children and millions of middle school students are learning to speak it. Millions of adults have also learned through radio broadcasts. Results so far already surpass the work done during 40 years before liberation.

To popularize the "common speech," however, does not mean "abolishing" the dialects. For a long time to come, these too will exist, with the former gradually assimilating the rich, lively store of the latter in words and expressions.

The newly published alphabet, based on the standard Peking pronunciation, will of course help greatly in the popularization of the "common speech."

A Phonetic Alphabet

The Chinese language, as written today and for many centuries past, is not phonetic, the characters giving little or no clue to pronunciation. This makes for difficulty in learning, and Chinese linguists and educationists have long recognized the necessity of devising a phonetic alphabet. Various attempts to do this have been made during the past 60 years.

The Committee for Reforming the Chinese Written Language has been working on the problem since 1952. The Scheme for the Chinese Phonetic Alphabet, which was approved by the National People's Congress in February, is the result of assiduous labour. It is a revision of the Draft Scheme published in February 1956, on which the people were called on to make suggestions. About 10,000 persons participated in the discussions. Besides, the committee received some 4,300 opinions in writing, including those from Chinese residing abroad.

After studying the views collected, the committee made a preliminary proposal for revising the Draft Scheme and organized consulting groups in which 178 representatives of various professions and different organizations took part. It also canvassed the opinion of 100 linguists by letter. For a year or so, together with a special committee appointed by the State Council to examine the Scheme, it held many meetings to consider the revision to be made. The result was the present Scheme which was first passed by the State Council and then approved by the National People's Congress.

The new phonetic alphabet presents little difficulty in teaching or learning. Experience shows that it takes about 20 hours to master. For those who talk in the "common speech" or who know something about phonetics, still less time is needed. Provided the necessary effort is made in popularization, it is expected that all the students and a majority of the young and middle-aged people in China will acquire its use during the Second Five-Year Plan.

The reform of the Chinese written language, in all its aspects, will be carried out step by step. For the time being the phonetic alphabet will be used chiefly to indicate pronunciation alongside of the characters and to popularize the "common speech." It can also be used as a common basis for creating written languages for some national minorities, reforming those of others, and as an aid to foreigners learning Chinese. Linguists, moreover, can employ the Scheme in their further study of, and experiments in the transformation of the Chinese written language into a phonetic one.

THE CHINESE PHONETIC ALPHABET

(Explanations by Wei Chueh)

All the 26 letters of the Latin alphabet are used. Below are the consonants, vowels, diphthongs and finals as compared with the Wade system, long popular for indicating the sounds of the Chinese characters in English, and the approximate equivalents in English pronunciation:

THE 21 CONSONANTS

Consonants	Wade system	Approximate English equivalents
b	p	b as in "be"
p	p'	p as in "par," strongly aspirated
m	m	m as in "man"
f	f	f as in "food"
d	t	d as in "do"
t	t'	t as in "ten," strongly aspirated
n	n	n as in "nine"
l	l	l as in "land"
g	k	g as in "go"
k	k'	k as in "kind," strongly aspirated
h	h	h as in "her," strongly gutturalized
j	ch(i)	j as in "jeep"
q	ch'(i)	ch as in "cheek"
x	hs(i)	sh as in "she"
zh	ch	j as in "jump"
ch	ch'	ch as in "church," strongly aspirated
sh	sh	sh as in "shore"
r	j	r pronounced but not rolled, tending towards the z in "azure"
z	ts, lz	ds as in "deeds"
c	ts'	ts as in "tsar," strongly aspirated
s	s, ss, sz	s as in "sister"

Note 1 v is omitted from the table of consonants. It is used only to render local dialects, and national minority and foreign words.

Note 2 y and w are also omitted from the above table. They are used as semi-vowels in syllables beginning with i, u and ü when not preceded by consonants.

- Examples: (1) yi, ya, ye, yao, you
 (2) wu, wa, wo, wai, wei
 (3) yü, yüe, yüan, yün

THE 6 VOWELS

Vowels	Wade system	Approximate English equivalents
a	a	a as in "father"
o	o	aw as in "law"
e	ê	er as in "her," the r being silent
i	i	ea as in "eat"
u	u	oo as in "too"
ü	ü	as German "ü"

Note 1 When preceded by i or ü, e is pronounced as the English short e.

Note 2 In syllables beginning with j, q, x the two dots above u can be omitted, but in syllables beginning with n or l the two dots must be retained.

THE 13 DIPHTHONGS

Diphthongs	Wade system	Approximate English equivalents
ia	ia	yah
ua	ua	wah
uo	uo	wa as in "water"
ie	ieh	ye as in "yes"
üe	yüeh	no English equivalent
ai	ai	as pronoun "I"
uai	uai	wi as in "wife"

ei	ei	ay as in "way"
uei	ui, wei	way
ao	ao	ow as in "how"
iao	iao	yow as in "yowl"
ou	ou	ow as in "bow"
iou	iu	yeeoo

THE 16 FINALS ENDING IN "N" AND "NG"

Finals	Wade system	Approximate English equivalents
an	an	ahn
ian	ien	ien as in "lenient"
uan	uan	oo ahn
üan	yüan	no English equivalent
en	ên	un as in "fun"
in	in	een as in "keen"
uen	wên	won as in "wonder"
ün	yün	no English equivalent
ang	ang	ahng
iang	iang	ï ahng
uang	uang	oo ahng
eng	êng	no English equivalent
ing	ing	ing as in "sing"
ueng	wêng	no English equivalent
ong	ung	oo ng
iong	yung	y oong

To indicate tones, the following marks are used:

First tone	Second tone	Third tone	Fourth tone	Neutral
—	/	∨	˘	
mā	má	mǎ	mà	měilidè
媽 (mama)	麻 (hemp)	馬 (horse)	罵 (scold)	美麗的 (beautiful)

An apostrophe is used to separate syllables when necessary. Example: pi'ao (皮襖 fur coat); without an apostrophe it is piao (漂 to float).

As can be seen from the above tables, the Scheme makes full use of the 26 Latin letters to represent Chinese phonemes. This can be seen by comparing it with the Wade system of Latinization. The new phonetic alphabet uses b, d, g to represent p, t, k and p', t', k' to represent p', t', k' (aspirated). In doing so it utilizes the spare letters b, d, g and avoids using the apostrophe as a sign of aspiration. This arrangement seems to be a practical and sensible one.

According to the Wade system, the initials ch and ch' are used to indicate both the sounds of chí, ch'i and chih, ch'ih which would cause confusion for the learner. Likewise, sh and its inverted hs which represent two different sounds would be difficult for the learner to distinguish. To rectify these shortcomings, the new alphabet, following the Chinese phonological tradition of decades, uses j, q, x to represent chí, ch'i and hsi and zh, ch and sh to represent chih, ch'ih and shih. This arrangement makes use of the letters j, q and x, making it possible to have three distinct letters to represent chí, ch'i and hsi and enabling a great number of persons who are accustomed to the old phonetic symbols (ㄉ, ㄊ, ㄋ, ㄌ, etc.) to learn the new alphabet more readily. Moreover, by having three independent letters to represent chí, ch'i and hsi, it is possible to have the two dots (umlaut) above u omitted in syllables beginning with j, q and x, and to use the same vowel i for both j, q, x and zh, ch, sh. Viewed purely phonologically, this arrangement has some defects, but for practical purpose it seems to be more expedient in handling these phonemes.

SPORTS

Heading for Olympic Heights

Chinese sportsmen are catching up with the world's best. In 1957, they set up three new world records. Chi Lieh-yun broke the world record in the men's 100 metres breast-stroke and weight-lifter Chen Ching-kai set a new world figure for the clean and jerk in the bantam-weight class. In Peking in November 1957 twenty-year-old Cheng Feng-jung topped the women's high-jump world record by clearing 1.77 metres. These successes were eye-openers for those who had grown accustomed to look upon China as an "also ran" in sport.

Mass participation in sport, something unknown before liberation, is the secret of China's speedy advance. Sport activities have become a regular feature of daily life in factories, mines, schools, offices or army units, in cities or the countryside. Over 38,000 sport associations have been organized at the grass-root level, with a membership of more than 5 million. It is from this big pool of talent that the country is drawing its record-breakers.

Old China lagged far behind in sport and it was no easy task to make up leeway. By hard training, all pre-liberation national records in swimming and weight-lifting, and in track and field events, with the single exception of the men's 100-metre dash, had been left behind by 1956. 1957 was an even better year. In seven events in weight-lifting, swimming and track and field, Chinese sportsmen broke national records as many as 434 times. This was proof that the record-holders have many youngsters following hard in their footsteps.

Weight-lifting

By the end of 1957, the national records for the three-lift totals in four of the seven classes of weight-lifting have either surpassed or approached the records set up by champions or runners-up in the 1952 Olympics held in Helsinki. Champion Chinese weight-lifters in five of the seven classes have lifted totals which could have won them at least a fifth place in the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne and a sixth place at the world championship contests held in Teheran last year. Twenty-two-year-old Chen Ching-kai, who in 1956 twice set up world records for the clean and jerk by lifting 133 kg. and 135.5 kg., set up a new world record in 1957 by lifting 139.5 kg.

Quite a number of other weight-lifters in China have either reached or are approaching world standards. Light-weight Huang Chiang-hui more than once jerked 155 kg. in training in 1957. This is better than the world record of 153.5 kg. held for eighteen years by Shams of Egypt. In the light-heavy-weight class, twenty-one-year-old Chao Ching-kuei improved his own clean and jerk record from the 152.5 kg. he lifted in 1956 to 167.5 kg. in 1957. The speed with which he has progressed should soon put him in sight of the world record of 176 kg.

Breast-stroke Champion

China's ace swimmer, Chi Lieh-yun, became world champion in the 100 metres breast-stroke when he covered this distance in 1 min. 11.6 secs. in a contest in Canton on May 1, 1957. This was the first day the new regulation, passed by the International Amateur Swimming Federation, took effect, ruling out under-water swimming in the breast-stroke. In the 200 metres breast-stroke, Chi finished first in 2 min. 40.5 secs., only half a second short of the official world record. Mu Hsiang-hsiung, another superb swimmer, also covered this distance in a very little under world record time.

Promising Jumpers

In November 1957, China's champion woman high-jumper Cheng Feng-jung cleared 1.77 metres, breaking the world record of 1.76 metres held by Mildred McDaniel of the United States. This was a notable example of the swift progress made by Chinese athletes in track and field. Cheng Feng-jung is the first Asian to set up a world record in track and field in the past twenty-one years. Other outstanding athletes who deserve mention are Tsai Yi-shu and Ma Hsiang-lung. Ma cleared 2 metres in the high-jump, while Tsai's record for the pole vault last year was 4.32 metres, which he later improved by clearing 4.34 metres at the Spring National Track and Field Meet held last February in Canton. China now has six athletes who can clear 4 metres in the pole vault, four who can exceed the 15-metre mark in the hop, step and jump, and five who can jump more than 7 metres in the long jump. In track events, China's athletes are still lagging behind world standards, but their general level is far in advance of pre-liberation records.

Bidding for World Honours

By using improved techniques, Chinese sportsmen are emerging as strong contenders in international competitions. At the Third World Youth Games held in Moscow in August last year, all seven Chinese weight-lifters who took part in events won placings. Bantam-weight

Chen Ching-kai carried off the gold medal, while light-weight Huang Chiang-hui received a silver medal. Of the nine Chinese swimmers who participated at the games, eight won placings. China's women's basketball team defeated the strong Polish quintet and came out fourth in the games. Though the men's basketball team did not do so well as the women's, their fast play impressed Moscow fans.

Basketball Teams

Chinese basketball players are building up a reputation for speed and accurate shooting. Last year the Shanghai students' basketball team took part in the Paris University Games and though it only got fifth place, it surprised Paris spectators by defeating the strong Brazilian team by 73 to 68. At the end of last year, the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic sent men's and women's basketball teams to China. The visiting men's team was held to a draw by both the Peking team and the "August First" team, while their women's team lost to the Peking team 48 to 68, and drew with the "August First" women's team.

Chinese football players are also drawing ahead. Their general standard has greatly improved over the last few years. Notable examples of this improvement are the matches played last February in Canton between Chinese teams and the Soviet World Cup team. The Peking team, last year's national champions, held the Soviet eleven to a 1-1 draw after a hotly contested match on February 21. The "August First" team, last year's runners-up, also drew with the Soviet team 1-1 the next day.

Table Tennis

In table tennis, Chinese teams gave a good account of themselves at the Stockholm World Championships. The women's team was placed third, while the men's team fought their way to the semi-finals when they lost to Japan, the world's champions. In an announcement made by the International Table Tennis Federation on February 24 this year, Wang Chuan-yao, China's national champion, was placed seventh among the world's nine best men players for 1957-1958. Sun Mei-ying, former women's champion of China, was also placed seventh among the world's top women players for the same period.

The standards so far reached in various sports in China are uneven. In some events a lot of leeway still remains to be made up. But China is coming on. With its swiftly growing mass sports movement, it will soon be putting in a strong bid for a leading place in the world of sport.

CHINESE PRESS OPINION

For Early Summit Talks

The latest developments in negotiations for East-West summit talks were discussed this week by *Renmin Ribao* in a series of commentaries.

On March 5, the paper backed up the Soviet proposal, contained in its note to France, to hold a foreign ministers' meeting to prepare the agenda and fix the composition of a summit conference. "This Soviet proposal," it wrote, "has deprived the Western countries of the excuses they use to delay the summit conference; it is yet another proof of Soviet sincerity in regard to such talks."

Describing as fair and reasonable the Soviet proposal that agreement on the date of the summit talks should be reached before the foreign ministers' conference is held, the commentary argued: "Only this will justify a foreign ministers' conference. Otherwise, it might be used by certain countries to put off the summit talks."

A fortnightly survey of the world situation on the same day pointed out, "No one, not even Dulles, now dares openly to deny the need for summit talks to settle outstanding international issues and ease tension. The urgent question now, therefore, is to bring about its early realization."

"Eisenhower has asked for 'less formal and less publicized contacts' to discuss the summit talks. If the United States is sincerely for this conference, the form consultations take is, of course, of little importance. But judging from U.S. deeds so far, one cannot but suspect that this request has an ulterior purpose—which is to postpone the summit conference as long as possible."

"The delaying tactic used by the United States is to get the foreign ministers' conference to discuss substantive matters. Some of the major NATO countries do not support the United States on this point. France for one has clearly stated that it wants the foreign ministers' conference to discuss only procedural matters. The United States obviously wants to use this issue to gain time in which to force its allies to agree to the establishment of missile bases on their territories."

Commenting on Dulles' rejection of the Soviet proposal at his March 4 press

conference in Washington, a *Renmin Ribao* commentator wrote on March 6: "Dulles wants to make the summit talks redundant. . . . He has 'ruled' that the foreign ministers' meeting in which he will take part should have the final say on whether world tension will be eased. But it is notorious that Dulles wants to intensify the 'cold war' and heighten world tension."

The commentator expressed the prevailing confidence in Peking that "these attempts of Dulles and his ilk to undermine the conference will be overborne by the pressure of the peoples who demand peace."

Trade for Mutual Benefit

Renmin Ribao in its editorial on March 6 warmly welcomed the signing of the fourth Sino-Japanese trade agreement (see "China and the World"), describing it as "a major event in Chinese-Japanese economic relations."

"The agreement and the appended memorandum," the editorial pointed out, "contain practical and clear-cut provisions for the reciprocal establishment of permanent people's trade missions—something that the people and economic circles in both countries have long desired. . . . We have good reason, therefore, to expect that this will open a new stage in trade relations between the two countries."

While expressing the hope that both sides to the agreement will operate its provisions in an active and responsible manner, *Renmin Ribao* stressed the responsibility of the two governments. "Only when they too both assume an active and responsible attitude and take effective measures, will the agreement be carried out satisfactorily," it said.

Touching on the larger implications of the agreement, *Renmin Ribao* declared: "Trade expansion is in the interest of both countries and their economic growth. Embarking on her Second Five-Year Plan, China is in a position to buy large quantities of construction material. Japan, on the other hand, is faced with the economic problem of growing stockpiles; her iron and steel, non-ferrous and textile industries are already suffering production cuts. Viewed in the context of the economic recession in the capitalist world as a whole, the importance and urgency for

Japan's economy of promoting Sino-Japanese trade is even more apparent."

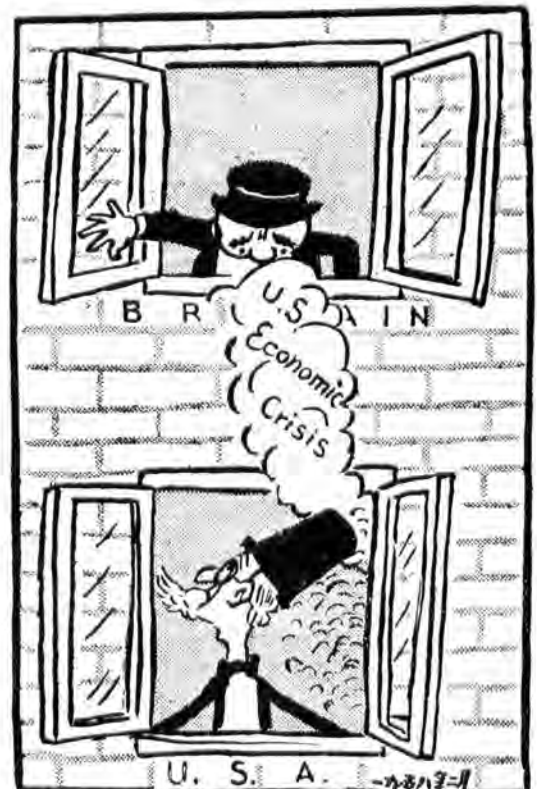
A Tale of Two Federations

Developments in the Middle East continue to draw comments from the Chinese press this week.

A *Renmin Ribao* commentator wrote on March 4: "The birth of the United Arab Republic is already exerting a positive influence in the Middle East. It has strengthened Arab unity and given encouragement to the Arab people in their common struggle against colonialism and for national independence. . . . the Yemeni decision to enter into a federal union with the U.A.R. is another happy event for the Arab people, marking a fresh step towards Arab unity."

"The Iraq-Jordan federation, however, is quite another matter. Iraq is a member of the Bagdad Pact and Jordan has subscribed to the 'Eisenhower doctrine.' The ruling cliques in both countries depend on foreign backing. When two such states join together, it is clear what role their federation is to play. . . . the United States apparently hopes to use the banner of 'unity' to link these two countries so as to steal the thunder of the U.A.R. and undermine Arab unity."

"Establishment of the federation also means a tightening of imperialist control over the two parties, particularly Jordan."



"Do I smell something burning?"

"No, Bull, it's only a conflagration."

Hua Chun-wu in "Renmin Ribao"

The Iraq-Jordan federation agreement. . . is meant, in fact, to force Jordan to follow the policy of the Bagdad Pact and get dragged into that aggressive bloc through the back door."

This imperialist scheme, however, has already been exposed, the commentator pointed out. The mass demonstrations by the Iraqi and Jordanian peoples, which went on despite ruthless suppression by the authorities, shows that this federation is opposed first and foremost by its own people.

Gongren Ribao (Worker's Daily) of March 5, said: "The setting up of the Iraq-Jordan federation can only be interpreted to mean that the imperialists have not desisted from their favourite old game of sowing dissension."

Ban Nuclear Tests!

On March 1, which the Cairo Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Conference designated as a day of common action against the testing and manufacture of nuclear weapons, *Da Gong Bao* (Impartial Daily) urged all those who love peace to protest against the projected U.S. H-bomb tests on Eniwetok.

The danger of nuclear war was still imminent, the paper declared. "In the Pacific region," it pointed out, "the United States is speeding up its efforts to create a strategic system of bases for atomic war. U.S. and Syngman Rhee troops have staged a series of atomic manoeuvres in South Korea. U.S. missile bases have been established on Taiwan and the Ryukyu Islands. Over 440 American military bases now dot Japan's islands."

Pointing out that these and the American missile bases in Britain and the Middle East have made the threat to peace very real, the paper said, "Fresh demonstrations in defence of peace by the people of the Asian and African countries and the rest of the world will deal a telling blow to the American nuclear war-mongers and give great encouragement to those who treasure peace."

A *Renmin Ribao* commentator on March 2 pointed out that the nuclear tests carried out by the United States at Bikini and Eniwetok since 1946, have already brought disaster and foreboding to the peoples of the Pacific. The tragedy of the *Fukuryu Maru* cannot be so easily forgotten."

The commentator also condemned the stubborn U.S. rejection of the Soviet proposal to end nuclear tests. "The reasons given by the United States for this rejection are mere pretexts which cannot stand up to examination," he added.

THE PASSING SHOW

All Things to All Men

On January 22, M. Gaillard assured the National Assembly that the military question in Algeria "was virtually solved" and the "revolt" if left to itself would soon "die out."

The National Defence Committee of the French Assembly, however, has recently declared that the situation in Algeria was grave and that military reinforcements were needed.

The unsophisticated may find these two statements of the French authorities contradictory. Not so. M. Gaillard's statement was made at a time when French colonial policy was getting a drubbing in the Assembly, while the Defence Committee report was timed for a debate on military expenditure for 1958.

Truth, when employed by the colonialist cliques, is a lady of excessively easy virtue.

Anything for a Quiet Life

To pacify the British people rendered anxious by the establishment of U.S. guided missile and H-bomb bases on their soil, Mr. Ward, Secretary for Air, has said that such bases will be in safe areas; and that people living in their vicinity, in fact, would find them safer and much quieter than around ordinary air bases.

Scram, Boys! Here Comes U.S. Aid!

Mr. Dulles, lobbying for the Eisenhower Administration's "Foreign Aid Programme," disclosed that while the United States has paid out 20,000 million dollars for military aid since this cold war programme started, its allies receiving this "aid," had been forced to spend 122,000 million dollars on arms to bolster U.S. "mutual security."



The Shanghai *Wen Hui Bao* (Cultural Daily Review) on March 1 wrote in an international commentary: "U.S. obstruction is the only reason why the Soviet proposal for ending nuclear tests has not been turned into positive action. . . the proposed H-bomb tests on Eniwetok are a challenge to the people of the world. Washington's atomania has gone from bad to worse."

Subversion in Middle East

"A wolf in sheep's clothing," was the comment of a *Renmin Ribao* writer on March 3, analysing the recently discovered U.S.-instigated conspiracy to overthrow the Iranian Government.

"Only a month ago, Iran, as a member of the Bagdad Pact, sat with the United States and other countries in an 'anti-subversion committee' meeting which pledged in its communique that great efforts would be made to eliminate subversive activities. Such activities have really been discovered now, but the culprit has turned out to be none other than the United States!"

Recalling that by overthrowing the Musaddeq government by subversive activities five years ago American oil in-

terests had seized control of 40 per cent of Iran's oil production, the commentator added: "But they are far from satisfied. They want to go on elbowing out British and other Western influences from Iran and tighten their own control. They have tried by hook or by crook to obstruct Iran's efforts to break the monopoly of the U.S. oil companies and get more favourable concession terms. On May 10 last year, the manager of the Iranian State Oil Company, who was in charge of oil negotiations with Italy, was assassinated by a U.S. agent because he went against U.S. interests. Such are the terrifying expressions of U.S. 'friendship.'"

"The United States is also worried about Iran's recent expression of a desire to strengthen relations with the Soviet Union," the commentator pointed out. "Before the Ankara meeting in January, Dulles made a special point of stopping over in Teheran for talks with the Iranian authorities. But the talks failed to give the results desired by the United States and Iran again rejected the American demand for establishing missile bases in the country. In its anger, the United States has resorted to this stab in the back."

CHINA AND THE WORLD

Sino-Japanese Trade Agreement

The fourth Sino-Japanese trade agreement involving 35 million pounds sterling worth of goods each way was signed in Peking on March 5 between the China Committee for the Promotion of International Trade and a delegation representing three Japanese trade organizations. An appended memorandum, providing for reciprocal establishment of permanent people's trade missions in Peking and Tokyo, was signed at the same time.

Under the terms of the agreement, Chinese soya beans, coal, iron ore, manganese, pig iron, tin and various other raw materials and farm produce will be exchanged for Japanese rolling stock and equipment, power generating equipment, ships, heavy and precision machinery, complete sets of industrial equipment, copper ingots, aluminium, steel, chemical fertilizers and other manufactured products.

The permanent people's trade missions will facilitate implementation of the agreement, provide information on market conditions, and give other help to Chinese and Japanese firms engaged in trade between the two countries. They will also promote technical exchanges.

The agreement also arranges for China to hold commodity exhibitions this year in Nagoya and Fukuoka and for similar Japanese exhibitions in Wuhan and Canton.

Effective for one year, the agreement can be extended and amended upon agreement by both sides.

Chinese Exhibit at Colombo

A Chinese Commodity Exhibition will open for the first time in Ceylon, in the middle of this month. With a floor space of 2,000 square metres, the 3,000-odd exhibits include light industrial goods, traditional handicrafts and farm produce; but special interest attaches to the stands of machine tools, machinery for the mining industry, axle bearings, electric motors, meters, "Jay-fong" lorries, automatic universal milling machines, rotary presses, and other machines. This equipment

will be demonstrated by Chinese technicians and workers.

Trade Protocol with Yugoslavia

China and Yugoslavia will exchange 7 million pounds sterling worth of goods this year, under the terms of a new trade protocol signed by the two countries in Belgrade on February 28.

China will export tin, asbestos, chemicals, medicines, minerals and metals, tyres, silk and silk goods, hides, tea, sugar, fruit juice and other farm produce. Imports from Yugoslavia will include chemicals, medicines, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, machinery, tobacco and cotton piece goods.

Rail Link with Viet-nam

International through train services were resumed on March 1 after a lapse of 16 years on the railway linking Kunming, capital of Yunnan Province, with the port city of Haiphong in the Viet-nam Democratic Republic.

The section between Hokow on the border and Pisechai, 287 kilometres south of Kunming, was destroyed during the war with Japan, but has now been repaired.

This 854-kilometre line, formerly known as the Indo-China-Yunnan Railway, is one of two railways between the two countries. The other, linking Nanning, capital of the Kwangsi Chuang Autonomous Region, with Hanoi, runs through Munankuan.

A reinforced concrete bridge over the River Peilun between Tunghsing in Kwangtung Province and Viet-nam's Moncay, will be completed in May.



U.S. Attorney Ends Visit

Mr. A. L. Wirin, attorney for John and Sylvia Powell, American editors indicted for "sedition" in a U.S. Federal Court for reporting U.S. aggression and the waging of germ warfare during the

Korean war in the American-owned *China Monthly Review* published in Shanghai left China on February 28.

During his seven weeks in the country to learn what witnesses and evidence are available to corroborate the reports published by the Powells which, the indictment charges, were "false," Mr. Wirin spoke informally to over 40 prospective witnesses. All declared their willingness to testify to the truth of the reports published by the Powells, provided an agreement on judicial assistance is reached between the United States and China.

The U.S. court trying the case has recognized the legal necessity both of such evidence and of judicial assistance—normal when obtaining evidence in one country for court proceedings in another. It sent a request to the Chinese Ministry of Justice to give such help. But as it was not forwarded through diplomatic channels in accordance with international practice, the Ministry had to return it.

On December 12, 1957, at the Sino-American ambassadorial talks in Geneva, the Chinese representative proposed negotiations for an agreement on judicial assistance, based on equality and reciprocity, to cover the Powell and future cases. The U.S. delegate refused.

China's Minister of Justice, Shih Liang, receiving Mr. Wirin at his request, said the Chinese side could grant the assistance asked by the U.S. court only after the customary agreement was reached. "If the American side were really sincere about the request for judicial assistance from China," she said, "it should not reject negotiations with the Chinese Government on this question."

IN BRIEF

The Chinese Military Goodwill Mission to India headed by Marshal Yeh Chien-ying returned to Kunming on March 3. This was a return visit for a similar Indian mission which came to China in 1956. During its forty-day tour, it visited the major Indian cities and military centres.

A 39-member Chinese youth delegation arrived in Cairo on March 1. Invited by the Cairo University Union, it includes professors, poets, doctors, artists, imams, business men and athletes.

China has decided to donate 15 metric tons of medicines and medical equipment to help flood victims in Ceylon. This is in addition to an earlier contribution.

A Chinese hospital was opened in Ulan Bator, Mongolia on March 1. Named the "Friendship Hospital," it will treat both local residents and Chinese helping construction work in Mongolia.

LITERATURE

The Writer's Task

China's writers have been discussing their present-day role. With the workers and peasants set for a massive advance in industry and agriculture, the writers naturally want to do their bit. But eagerness to make a positive contribution is not enough. There are the problems of how to make and maintain contact with the fast-changing currents of social life, and with the labouring people as they play an ever more dynamic part in China's socialist democracy; problems of creative method; of the artist's self-transformation when he realizes that his creative "stock-in-trade," old outlooks and approaches are outdated. These are some of the problems that writers have been discussing at meetings of the All-China Federation of Writers and Artists called to formulate plans for higher and better literary output.

Several discussions centred on literary events and creative activities in 1957. They made clear that the rout of the rightists and analysis and criticism of their attitudes were an essential step to the clearer thinking of today on the role and place of the writer in building a socialist society, as one who holds a mirror up to progress and stimulates it. It was this clearer understanding that has inspired writers to go out to the villages, factories and construction sites to renew or deepen contacts with the workers and peasants. The creative results of these activities in 1957 are, of course, not yet making themselves fully felt, but there is no pessimism on that score. 1957 produced no less than 39 full-length novels and quite a crop of short stories and reportage.

Many ideas for current work were pooled at a meeting held by the Federation last month in Peking. Lao Sheh, the novelist and playwright (*Rickshaw Boy*, *Dragon Beard Ditch*), urged greater co-operation between writers specializing in the same theme so as to plan their work better. The playwrights Tien Han, Yang Han-sheng, Ouyang Yu-chien and Tsao Yu pointed out that with new things and new people constantly making their appearance, writers, while having their long-term plans for full-scale treatment of their themes in novels and larger pieces, should pay more attention than hitherto to shorter, more compact pieces to fill more immediate, short-term needs.

Chao Shu-li (author of the *Rhymes of Li Yu-tsai* and *Santiwan Village*) drew attention to the fact that writers need

to study the question of democratization of the literary language they use as the essential bridge to the new mass audience of today.

Writers are naturally preoccupied with the question of volume, and variety as well as quality of literary output. The vast extension of publishing facilities and the accession of millions of new readers with new tastes and interests make this an urgent matter. The only way to solve this problem, says Chou Yang, Vice-Chairman of the Federation, is to make creative literature part and parcel of the broad mass of workers and peasants in a deeper and broader sense than ever in the past. The practice of going to live for long periods with the working people in the villages, factories, camps and construction sites, for instance, must be part of the fundamental way of life of our writers and artists.

He called on writers now in the villages and factories, apart from taking an active part in productive work, to do all they could to enrich the cultural life of the working people and help amateur art activities. On their part the various writers' associations should give more help to their members to get out among the people and increase their creative work, so that the present wave of creative enthusiasm can be turned into a rich harvest of literature and art.

Chou Yang also dealt with another way of encouraging creative work—literary and art criticism. He called on cultural periodicals and associations to do more to provide a forum for free debate and criticism. To encourage the good and criticize the bad, he suggested that every periodical publish reviews in every number while newspapers should run review columns at least once a week. And not only books, but plays, films, concerts and exhibitions should get their share of space. Every periodical and magazine should carry out the policy of letting a hundred flowers blossom and a hundred schools of thought contend. He hoped to see more "generals leading the attack" with a bold and creative spirit. Writers and critics should show courage in breaking down conventions, striking out along new lines and innovating new forms. Only by so doing, he insisted, could creative literature push ahead to meet the needs of society today.

"Yi Wen" in 1958

Yi Wen, the monthly magazine of Chinese translations of foreign literature, appears with a new make-up and new features in 1958. Since it first came out in July 1953, its 56 issues have done a more than adequate job of introducing the progressive literature of other countries to Chinese readers. But new tasks

face it today, hence the new look of the first numbers of this year.

Over the past two years, revisionist attempts to whittle away the foundations of Marxism-Leninism have been evident in the literary field no less than elsewhere and the polemic has been widespread. *Yi Wen* gave some space to this question, but the January issue starts a new standing column "On the Front of Literary Controversy." This should keep Chinese readers better informed on literary discussions in various countries.

This is not the only evidence of a more active editorial hand. The seventy-fifth anniversary of the birth of Alexei Tolstoy is commemorated by publication, in the January issue, of three short articles by him: *Motherland*, *Open Letter to N. V. Tchaikovsky* and *A Few Words Before Departure*. These vividly reveal key stages in his development. They make it clear how long and painstakingly he groped before he set his feet on his chosen path of service to the working



people, completely changed his class standpoint and became one of the best beloved writers of the Soviet Union.

As an editorial note remarks, this example of an outstanding writer who transformed himself from an intellectual of the old society into one serving the interests of the revolutionary working class and socialism is of special significance to Chinese intellectuals, in general, and to Chinese writers, in particular, who are reforming their ways of thinking.

In its selection of material, *Yi Wen* is clearly endeavouring to give fuller effect to the policy of letting a hundred flowers blossom and a hundred schools of thought contend. Important works by writers of the capitalist countries are included as well as those of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and it is good that it devotes more space to the long-short story.

The *Blast Furnace* by the Soviet writer N. Liashko in the January and February issues is a novel of about a hundred thousand words. This was first published in the twenties, and its theme is the rehabilitation of industry after the wars of intervention. Its description of the Soviet workers' sense of social responsibility and devotion to their jobs is an illuminating study of the role labour plays in revolutionizing one's ideas. This is an eminently apt choice for current publication in a China whose Second Five-Year Plan has just got under way and where this question of cultivating a socialist outlook is in every reader's mind. The February issue also contains John Steinbeck's long-short story, *The Pearl*. Chinese readers know Steinbeck's work

from many other translations but this particular piece will bring them up-to-date on a later phase of his work. Laid in Mexico, it depicts in realistic terms the tragic defeat of an individual who sets his will against the whole criminal system of the society, but in the background we sense the Mexican people's will to resist the oppressor and win their freedom.

The January issue has a special Balzac section. The reader has a chance of seeing some Balzac work that is extremely helpful for the present discussion on realism: the long-short story *Gobseck*, and the short stories *El Verdugo* and *Facino Cane*. The translator adds a useful analysis of the style

and social circumstances in which *Gobseck*, that typical Balzac story, appeared. The same issue also carries a critical article by Sainte-Beuve, the French critic and Balzac's contemporary, some reminiscences by Theophile Gautier and a critical evaluation of Balzac's works by Konstantin Fedin, the well-known Soviet writer.

The March issue devotes a special section to the ninetieth anniversary of the birth of Gorky. It carries two of his letters and an essay relating to China, two short articles and the short story *January 9*. It also has five stories by Giovanni Verga (1840-1922), the important realist Italian writer. The new *Yi Wen* is undoubtedly keeping up with the times.

WHAT'S ON IN PEKING

—Highlights of Current Entertainment, Exhibitions, etc.—

PEKING OPERA

● **THE DRUNKEN BEAUTY** With Tu Ching-fang in the title role. Waiting in vain for the Tang Emperor to come to her, the beautiful concubine Yang Kuei-fei drowns her sorrow in wine. Produced by the China Peking Opera Company.

Mar. 12 at *Chang'an Theatre*

● **THE WILD BOAR FOREST** An episode from the classical novel *Water Margin* (or *All Men Are Brothers*) about a peasant rebellion in the Sung dynasty. Persecuted by corrupt officials, the hero Lin Chung joins the leaders of the peasant rising on Liangshan Mountain. With Li Shao-chun as Lin Chung.

Mar. 12 at *Kwangho Theatre*
Mar. 15 at *Chi Hsiang Theatre*

● **FISHERMEN'S SONG ON THE RIVER** Libretto by Tien Han. A Sung dynasty story. A patriotic fisherman and his daughter lead the fisherfolk to the help of government troops repulsing the Tartar invaders.

Mar. 15 at *People's Theatre*

PINGCHU OPERA

● **THE RETURN OF THE PHOENIX** A comedy of errors. Young man wins girl despite the schemes of a wicked stepmother. Produced by the China Pingchu Opera Company, starring Hsin Feng-hsia.

Mar. 17 at *Ta Chung Theatre*

THEATRE

● **SONG OF YOUTH** by Liu Chuan, tells how a young college graduate becomes a working-class intellectual through working in the countryside. The Peking People's Art Theatre.

Mar. 11-15 and 17 at 7:15 p.m., Mar. 16 at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. at *Capital Theatre*

● **A MILITANT WEEKEND, HIGH-CLASS GARBAGE, VISITING THE PRISON, and POOR LITTLE AMERICAN MOON** Four new one-act comedies by the Peking People's Art Theatre satirizing the bourgeois rightists and the satellite phobia in the U.S.

"Something you must see... a laugh at the expense of the rightists and the White House windbags."

—*Beijing Ribao*
(Peking Daily)

Mar. 11-13 at *People's Theatre*

● **AT THE FOOT OF THE TIENSHAN MOUNTAINS** by Wu Yu-hsiao. How a Uighur woman farmer leads the way in putting a co-op on its feet. Produced by the China Youth Art Theatre.

Mar. 11-17 at 7 p.m., Mar. 16 at 3 p.m., the *China Youth Art Theatre*

● **WISHING YOU EVERY SUCCESS** A four-act play of modern Soviet life by V. Rozov. Two young brothers at the start of their careers are faced with a crucial choice between old and new ideas. Performed by

graduating students of the Central Drama School.

Mar. 14-16 at 7 p.m., the "*New Peking*" Theatre (outside Fu Hsing Men Gate)

BALLET

The **MATSUYAMA MIKIKO BALLET COMPANY** now touring China PRESENTS

† *The White-Haired Girl*—China's famous modern opera in ballet form

† *Peter and the Wolf*—Prokofiev's musical story for children

† *Extracts from Ballets*—music by Chopin, Asafyev (*Bakhchisarai Fountain*) and other composers

March 13-16 7:50 p.m., March 16 matinee (1:30 p.m.) At *Tienchiao Theatre*

FILMS

● **HAPPINESS** How young workers in a factory work, love and play. Produced by the Shanghai Tien Ma Film Studio.

Mar. 11 at all cinemas in Peking except Kwangan Men

Mar. 12-17 at *Chiao Tao Kou, Hsin Chieh Kou, Chung Yang, Kwangan Men*

Mar. 13-16 at *Children's Cinema*

Mar. 14-16 at *Ta Hua, Soviet Exhibition Centre Cinema*

● **MOTHER AND DAUGHTER** The conflict between old and new in teaching as represented by a mother and her daughter who teach at the same school. Produced by the Changchun Film Studio.

Mar. 12-13 at *Chiao Tao Kou, Hsin Chieh Kou, Kwangan Men, Tungzu Workers' Club*

Mar. 12-14 at *Children's Cinema*

Mar. 12-15 at *Ta Hua, Soviet Exhibition Centre Cinema, Peking Theatre, Peking Workers' Club*

● **FIVE SONGS** ("Die Windrose") A coloured film of women's life and work in the five countries of Brazil, the Soviet Union, France, Italy and China. Jointly produced by Defa Films of the German Democratic Republic and the World Federation of Democratic Women. Directed by World Peace Prize winner Joris Ivens.

Mar. 12-15 at *Kwangho Theatre*

● **THE CREW OF THE CRUISER "NADEZHDA"** How the crew of the *Nadezhda*, a Bulgarian cruiser, mutinied twice, in 1905 and again in 1918, against orders to take part in plots against the Russian revolution. A Bulgarian feature film.

Mar. 16-17 at *Hsin Chung Kuo*
Mar. 17 at *Kwangan Men*

● **CIRCUS PEOPLE** A coloured wide-screen film made by the Central Documentary Film

Studio of the Soviet Union. It shows not only the exciting performances they put on but also the performers' life off-stage.

Mar. 11-17 at *Capital Cinema*

LECTURES

● **"UTILIZATION OF SOLAR ENERGY"**—a report on the latest achievements of Soviet science in this field. Sponsored by the Cultural Club of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association in Peking.

Mar. 14, 7 p.m. at the *Cultural Club of the Association*

● **"ON LIGHT MUSIC"**—Speaker: Li Ling, Director of the Central Philharmonia. Sponsored by the Cultural Club of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association.

Mar. 15, 7 p.m. at the *Cultural Club of the Association*

EXHIBITIONS

● **EXHIBITION OF JAPANESE CALLIGRAPHY AND SEAL-ENGRAVING** Jointly sponsored by the Chinese People's Association for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the Society of Chinese Calligraphers in Peking.

Daily (except Mon.) 9 a.m.—5 p.m.

Closing date: March 20

At *Peihai Park* (Winter Palace)

● **PALACE MUSEUM**
Art Gallery Over 300 traditional Chinese paintings of the Ming and China dynasties. Open on Mar. 11, 13 and every odd date of the month from 8 a.m.—5 p.m. Tickets sold up to 4.30 p.m.

SPORTS

● **FOOTBALL** Return matches between Soviet World Cup Football Team and the Chinese "August 1" and Peking Teams. Scheduled for March 12 and 13. (For tickets see *Beijing Ribao*.)

● **BOXING** Bouts between qualified Peking boxers to select a Peking City Team. At the Shih Cha Hai Stadium on Mar. 16 and 23. Matches are open to the public.

SWIMMING

WARM-WATER SWIMMING at the Peking Gym's Indoor Pool. Now open:

Tues.—Sun. 1-3 p.m.

Weds., Thurs. and Sat. 7-9 p.m.

ROLLER-SKATING

The Shih Cha Hai Stadium has opened its **ROLLER-SKATING RINK!**

Daily 10 a.m.—6 p.m. Sun. 9 a.m.—6 p.m.

Admission: 10 fen per hour

(Programmes are subject to change. Where dates are not listed, consult theatre or daily press.)



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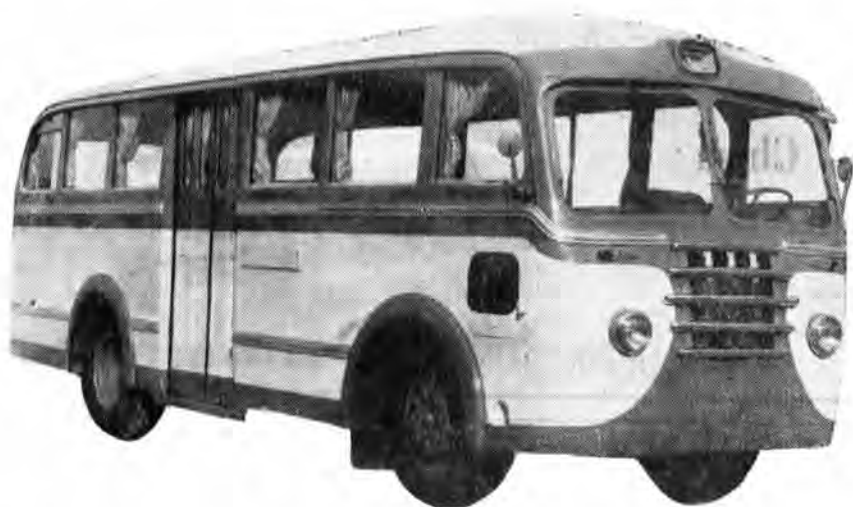
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