

PEKING

April 22, 1958

8

REVIEW

Why the Sino-U. S. Talks Have Been Suspended

A comprehensive record of how the United States stalemated the ambassadorial talks in Geneva (p. 6).

China Goes to the Polls

How the people's deputies are being elected.
Facts on the Chinese electoral system (p. 8).

Mr. Kishi's Tricky Game

News and comments on Sino-Japanese trade relations (pp. 3 & 21).

Turning the Whole Country Green

A progress report on afforestation (p. 14).

Quick Guide to China's Railways

A WEEKLY MAGAZINE OF CHINESE NEWS AND VIEWS

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PEKING OPERA

*An introduction through
pictures by EVA SIAO and
text by REWI ALLEY*

"In China the opera has occupied a very unique position. It is a position that has not been vacated up to this present day for, in spite of the patronage of the great in the past, it has always been a thing of the people."

—*Author's Preface*

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PEKING REVIEW

北京周报

(BEIJING ZHOUBAO)

A WEEKLY MAGAZINE OF CHINESE
NEWS AND VIEWS

April 22, 1958

Vol. I No. 8

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Published every Tuesday by PEKING REVIEW,
Pai Wan Chuang, Peking (37), China
Cable Address: PEKING 6170

Post Office Registration No. 2-521

Printed in the People's Republic of China

Mr. Kishi's Tricky Game

AFTER almost five weeks of dilly-dallying on the surface and intense behind-the-scenes activity between Tokyo, Washington and Taipeh, Premier Kishi, on April 9, finally took a public stand on the fourth Sino-Japanese trade agreement. Despite professions of "support," his reply leaves no room for doubt as to where the Kishi government really stands.

It doesn't take much political experience to see through Kishi's game. He "supports" the agreement in words, but seeks to scrap it in deeds.

Kishi has a long record of hostility to the Chinese people. During Japan's war of aggression against China, he was in charge of the "Five-Year Plan for the Industrial Development of Manchukuo" and directed the plunder of China's north-eastern provinces. Since becoming premier, he has tried in one way or another to block the development of Sino-Japanese relations. He has helped the United States push the "two Chinas" hoax and has made no secret of his designs on Taiwan. Obstruction from the Kishi government prevented the full implementation of the third Sino-Japanese trade agreement and delayed the signing of the fourth.

What the Kishi government is up to is nothing new. Now, as before, he is serving expansionist Japanese monopoly capital, which brought untold suffering to the Japanese people and many other peoples during World War II. It is for the purpose of acquiring markets and paving the way for the foreign expansion of Japanese monopoly capital that he has been so hard at work selling his new versions of the bankrupt schemes for a "Greater East Asian Co-prosperity Sphere" in the guise of a "South-eastern Asian Development Fund" and the so-called "Asian market."

At the same time, the Kishi government, following the U.S. policy of war preparations, is speeding up Japan's militarization to the extent of equipping the Japanese "self-defence corps" with nuclear weapons. All this points to the new stirrings of latent Japanese imperialism. This is something that needs close watching.

The deterioration of the Japanese economy has caused considerable worry. And the economic recession in the United States is bound to affect Japan's exports and add to her economic difficulties. Moreover, Japan's general elections are to be held this year and Kishi naturally has his eyes on the voters. These economic and political realities compelled him to pay lip service to the new trade agreement.

But since Kishi harbours long-standing hostility to the Chinese people and is lined up with the United States and the Chiang Kai-shek clique, it is small wonder that he has shown his true colours at the crucial moment.

The Chinese people want to live in friendship with the Japanese people and to expand Sino-Japanese trade on the principle of equality and mutual benefit. The Kishi government's hostile attitude flagrantly violates this principle.

Popular protests against the Kishi government's attitude are spreading in Japan. There is no doubt that the Japanese people, in their own self-interest, will continue to overcome all the obstacles in the way and that Sino-Japanese trade will flourish on the principle of equality and mutual benefit.

ROUND THE WEEK

Chairman Mao Among the People

Chairman Mao Tse-tung has been visiting farms and factories in Szechuan and Hupeh Provinces. Accounts of his trip and his conversations with the people have been appearing in the press. Here are some of the highlights.

"Let's Have an Informal Chat?" On arriving at a farming co-op in Pih sien County, Szechuan, Chairman Mao first dropped in at a peasant home. Most of the family were out working in the fields but an old woman was at home. She could hardly see, owing to inflammation of the eyes, and didn't recognize her visitor. She took him to be a government worker from another province.

Talking in her native dialect, Chairman Mao opened with a colloquial greeting meaning "let's have an informal chat." He asked how many people were working in the family, whether she was a member of the farming co-op, what her income was from the co-op.

Then he inquired if the family had enough grain. She was about to answer when the vice-chairman of the co-op, who came along with Chairman Mao, tried to answer for her. "Every member earned more than 400 catties of grain last year." "Never mind what he said, it doesn't count," Chairman Mao told her. "I want you to tell me." The old woman laughed and said: "Why yes, we have enough."

Chairman Mao chatted and laughed with her. When the conversation ended and he had said good-bye the old woman heard excited voices from the courtyard calling "Chairman Mao's here!" "Chairman Mao's here!" and only then did she realize that she had been giving her views to Chairman Mao.

The Flower That Breaks the Rice Bowl. Going round the farm, Chairman Mao became interested in a poisonous weed which is locally known as "the flower that breaks the rice bowl," translated literally. It grows everywhere in the province. Its odd name derives from the warning of the peasants to their children not to pick these wild plants because they will "break their rice bowls" afterwards, if they do. This is how the grown-ups scare the little ones away from this poisonous plant. But this flower, as laboratory tests now show, is of great value as a fertilizer and a natural insecticide, killing fly and mosquito larvae.

Chairman Mao suggested that wide publicity be given to this flower to help

the health campaign — against flies and mosquitoes.

Down the Yangtse. On a steamer ride down the Yangtse rapids Chairman Mao spent a good deal of time talking with the crew. He wanted to see how they work, how much they are earning, how things are now as compared with the old days, whether they had taken their home leaves, etc. In his conversation with the younger members of the crew, Chairman Mao stressed the need of learning.

On board was a young woman officer, Third Mate Shih Jo-yi. Chairman Mao discussed with her navigation problems and how difficulties in one's work could be overcome. Then he asked how long she had been in the merchant marine. "Four years" was the answer. "And you, captain?" he asked. "Well over thirty now." Chairman Mao said to her: "Try to learn as much as possible from these experienced workers. They are good teachers. They know these waters and have a lot of experience behind them. You see, much of what they know you won't find in the books."

To the captain he said: "You've got knowledge and experience. You should pass them on to the youngsters." The captain promised he would do all he could to train as many young people as possible.

In the Triple-City of Wuhan, Chairman Mao went to see the Industrial Fair displaying locally manufactured articles. Methane gas lamps, as bright as 60 c.p. electric lights, which can be used to great advantage in the rural areas, attracted his interest. He also was interested in a new type of lamp fed by cheap and easily made batteries, costing about a *fen* (100 *fen* to a yuan) an hour. Chairman Mao advised that both types of lamps should be introduced in the rural areas where electricity is not yet available.

Chairman Mao evinced keen interest in the development of local industries and paid tribute to the many little-known inventors from the ranks of the common people who are now making contributions to science.

Youth Convene

Two conferences of youth were held within one week of each other. The National Young Workers Conference met in Shanghai. The Third National Youth Congress convened in Peking. The former brought together outstanding young factory and mine workers while the

latter brought to the capital youth of all walks of life and social strata. Both conferences enabled the young people to swap experiences and discuss how they can best play their part in socialist construction.

China has 120 million young people, of which 10 million are young workers. The Youth Congress seeks to unite all young people to help them play an advanced role in society.

Facilities for the Nationalities

A 13-storey palace of culture for the nationalities to serve as a centre for the people of the national minorities is now being built in Peking. Ground was broken on April 15. The building will be completed next year.

There will be exhibition halls, a library to house more than 200,000 volumes, an auditorium, clubs and restaurants catering to various religious faiths.

* * *

Since 1941, when the first institute for nationalities was set up in the revolutionary base of Yen-an, in northwest China, the Chinese Communist Party has attached great importance to providing facilities for training nationality cadres. Since liberation eight new special institutes for national minority students have been set up in Peking, Lanchow (Kansu Province), Chengtu (Szechuan Province), Wuhan (Hupeh Province), Kweiyang (Kweichow Province), Nanning (Kwangsi Chuang Autonomous Region), Sining (Chinghai Province), and Kunming (Yunnan Province). Never have the people of the national minorities had such opportunities and scope for education. In the last few years 25,986 students from more than 50 different nationalities were graduated from these centres of learning. Today the enrolment reaches well over 10,000.

At these institutes now the stress is on socialist education. This emphasis stems from the fact that "national regional autonomy" is now a reality for over 90 per cent of the national minorities who live in compact communities. More than 85 per cent of the national minorities in China have carried through the socialist transformation of the ownership of the means of production. These changes in the national minority areas require large numbers of trained political cadres who are professionally qualified and are dedicated to the cause of socialism which has brought China's national minorities equality and freedom for the first time in their lives.

Motor Vehicles Output Doubled

Seventy thousand motor vehicles, instead of the original target of 30,000, will be manufactured by the First Motor

Works at Changchun, northeast China, this year. This will be achieved without any increase in investment, the number of workers or working hours. Its output, in effect, will be the equivalent of more than two motor plants, instead of one. The big jump is due to bold steps taken in revising designs, improving technique, simplifying work processes and, above all, to close co-operation between the workers and the engineers and technicians.

The motor works in Changchun, which is the first of its kind in China, has come a long way since it was commissioned in 1956. At that time it produced only eight lorries a day.

In the last fortnight or so as the campaign against waste and conservatism went into full stride, administrators, workers and engineers tapped the potentialities of the First Motor Works and estimated that they could raise the present output of 50 vehicles to 100 vehicles per day shift.

Before the campaign, the plant envisaged only a dozen or so models. Now it plans no less than 80 new ones. Forty new types of lorries are now projected instead of the original eighteen. Sedan cars, 3-wheel cross-country lorries, lorries operated on coal-gas, tip lorries for use on farms, all-purpose lorries, tractors and chassis for buses will all begin coming off the assembly lines this year. At first some of these will be produced on a trial basis.

As can be seen from the sketches below, attention is focussed on manufacturing motor vehicles specially suited to the needs of the countryside. This is another way in which industry helps agriculture.

"Come See Us 5 Days Later"

On March 23 a striking *tatsepao* headed "Come and see us five days later" appeared in Chenkuantun, a village on the east bank of the Grand Canal, not far from the city of Tientsin. The *tatsepao* proclaimed:

Come and see us five days later, we shall have built a hydro-power station.

Come and see us five days later, our hydro-power station will be turning the wheels of our flour mills and operating the fodder-cutting machines.

Come and see us five days later, our electric lights will be shining as bright as broad daylight.

Come and see us five days later. . .

Literally five days later, on March 27, the first power station went into operation in this quiet little village of 3,785 inhabitants. It did all the things promised in the *tatsepao*, and more too, for the peasants who had been yearning so long for the benefits of electricity. This power station, built in five days, made history. It is only a small affair, 15 kilowatts in all, but it points the way to the gradual electrification of the Chinese countryside.

Chenkuantun's home-made power station was built with local resources exclusively. It was designed by local technicians, blacksmiths, carpenters, masons and peasants with the help and guidance of the local Communist Party functionaries. The station is located at a point on the canal with very slight falls. It opens up great possibilities for building hydro-electric power stations on waterways where the falls are slight.

Where cement and bricks were used in previous projects, the people here found they could substitute local timber and stone. One peasant was so excited over the prospect of electricity in the village that he contributed his millstone, which had been in the family for 75 years, with the playful assertion that "it had accomplished its historic mission."

The whole project cost only 2,256 yuan, averaging 0.6 yuan for each of the inhabitants, the equivalent of three packets of lower-priced cigarettes.

The example of Chenkuantun has opened new vistas and brings electrification in the Chinese countryside a big step nearer.

Osaka Congratulates Shanghai

The Shanghai telegraph office, thanks to the rectification campaign, is now one of the world's best in sending international telegrams. Between March 11 and 20 ordinary telegrams were dispatched to London three times faster than from London to Shanghai, five times faster than from Paris and twice as fast as from Geneva and Osaka. Shanghai is not only fast but accurate too. There wasn't a single error in the total of 110,084 telegrams sent or received in March. The telegraph office in Osaka,

Japan, sent a message of congratulations to Shanghai, saying that of the 16 international transmission lines of the Osaka telegraph office Shanghai ranked first in accuracy, speed and technique.

Peking's Anti-pest Drive

Peking woke up at 4:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, April 19, 1958. At the designated hour, the slumbering city arose and sprang into action, to the sound of bugles and drums, gongs and cymbals, to the strains of Peking opera, to the beating of pots and pans, and the endless explosion of double-kicking fire-crackers. Three million people promptly took up their battle posts along the city's streets and hutungs (lanes), on the city walls, by the city's moats, on every rooftop, in every park and in the fields of the capital's suburbs.

At 5 a.m. sharp the general offensive began. Peking waged war on one of the "four pests"—the sparrows that eat and ruin farmers' crops. The mass anti-pest drive went on for three days. Everybody took part—workers, peasants, office workers, armymen, housewives, students and teachers. The gay colours of flags fluttering in the wind, thousands of coloured scarecrows put up on rooftops and coloured sticks and feather brushes gave the city more of a festival air than a battle atmosphere. (For background see the article "Ending the 'Four Evils,'" *Peking Review*, No. 4, March 25, 1958.)

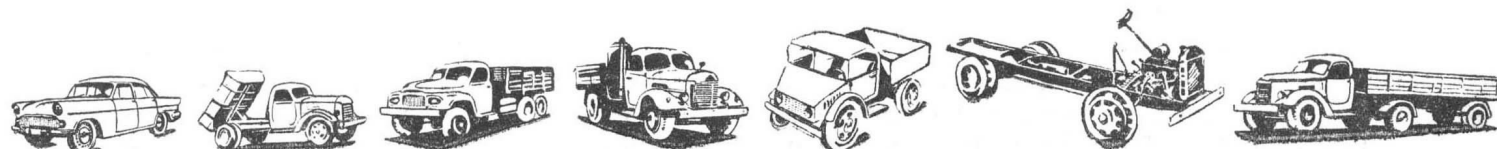
FOR YOUR INFORMATION

First 40 h.p. Tractor. The Tientsin Tractor Plant is producing a 40 h.p. diesel-driven tractor, capable of ploughing ten hectares of land in eight hours. All the 3,000 parts are made of Chinese materials by Chinese hands.

Films in Mongolian. Inner Mongolia has built its first film studio in Huhehot, its capital. It will produce newsreels and documentaries and dub feature films in Mongolian.

Kweichow Steel Plant. Kweichow, one of China's most undeveloped provinces, is building its first iron and steel plant. It will have a capacity of 40,000 tons of steel products annually.

"East Is Red" Alarm Clocks. A Chungking factory has manufactured a special kind of alarm clock which plays the song favourite *East Is Red*.



Why Have the Sino-American Talks Been Suspended?

by MEI YI

THE facts underlying the suspension of the Sino-American talks since last December have been made public by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (the text of the statement appears on p. 22). The entire record of the seventy-three ambassadorial sessions held in Geneva thus far is an example of delayed action and drag-it-out diplomacy on the part of the United States.

The Sino-American talks began on August 1, 1955. They came about as international tension was lessening and after the Chinese Government took the initiative and offered "to sit down and enter into negotiations with the U.S. Government." For more than two years since then, repeated Chinese efforts to advance the talks have met with stubborn American blocking. As a result, progress has been slow. Although the talks have not broken down completely, they are not fulfilling their proper role.

The reasons for this state of affairs are no mystery. The United States finally but reluctantly entered into negotiations with China, because of the mounting popular pressure all over the world for relaxing international tension. It doesn't dare break off the talks for the same reason. At the same time, however, Washington fears that these talks will further alleviate tension. Consequently the U.S. side tries to block the progress of the discussions by all means and attempts to turn the negotiations into a perfunctory affair.

Here is a brief record of U.S. stalling and obstruction.

Return of Civilians

The first item on the agenda of the Sino-American talks was the question of the return of civilians.

Following the outbreak of the Korean war, the U.S. Government prohibited Chinese nationals in the United States from returning to China. Violations of the ban are punishable by five-year prison sentences or \$5,000 fine. Thousands of Chinese in the United States who want to return to their homeland are thus prevented from rejoining their families. This state of affairs made it necessary to place this question on the agenda.

American nationals in China were in an entirely different situation. The overwhelming majority of those willing to return, amounting to 25,000 in round numbers, had left China with the assistance of the authorities of the People's Republic. Only a tiny fraction still remained because they had personal affairs which needed to be settled. On the eve of the Sino-American talks there were less than 100 Americans in China.

Discussions between the Chinese and American ambassadors on this question began on August 1, 1955. An agreement on the return of civilians of both sides was reached on September 10 of that year. It provides that

the nationals of each country residing in the other, who desire to return, are entitled to do so.

Since the publication of this agreement, all the Americans in China who wanted to go back have left China. Local authorities in China have assisted them in settling their personal affairs. The Chinese side, in short, has faithfully fulfilled the obligations provided for in the agreement. Moreover, the Chinese side has taken measures on its own initiative to deal leniently, according to China's own legal procedure, with American convicts who were serving sentences in this country. Up to the present, thirty-four out of the forty Americans found guilty of violating Chinese law have been set free either before completion of their sentences or after serving their terms.

The United States, however, has adopted a completely contrary attitude to the agreement. There are still thousands of Chinese nationals in the United States today who are unable to return to China because of American obstruction. The American side itself has admitted that twenty-two Chinese nationals in the United States have been prevented from returning. The Chinese side has requested the American side to investigate the cases of forty-nine Chinese who are known to have been prevented from leaving the United States. Neither the twenty-two nor the forty-nine Chinese have been allowed to return to this day. These facts are indisputable proof of U.S. failure to live up to its pledged word.

Chinese nationals in the United States who desire to return are still confronted with various threats and persecutions. Many of them have even been assigned to "mental hospitals" because they insist on returning to their motherland. They are totally deprived of freedom and there is no possible way for them to contact the Indian Embassy in the United States which has been entrusted by China to assist in the return of Chinese nationals. They have no chance whatsoever to request the Indian Embassy to make representations on their behalf and investigate their cases as provided for in the agreement. This situation underlines the gravity of the U.S. violation of the agreement.

The agreement on the return of civilians is the only accord reached in the long drawn out Sino-American talks. Even this single result, however, is being undermined by the American side.

Relaxing Tension in the Taiwan Area

After agreement was reached on item one of the agenda, the Chinese and the American ambassadors proceeded to item two: "other practical matters at issue between the two parties."

First the two sides discussed the question of relaxing tension in the Taiwan area. This was what the U.S. side called the question of renunciation of the use of force.

The tension in the Taiwan area is the key issue in the relations between China and the United States. This situation was created entirely as a result of the use of force against China by the United States, by U.S. occupation of the Chinese territory of Taiwan. Despite this, China still maintains that the two countries should settle their disputes by peaceful negotiation, without resorting to force. Such negotiations and any agreement that might be reached, however, must lead to the relaxation and elimination of tension, but not to the recognition of the status quo of U.S. occupation of Taiwan.

Taiwan is a Chinese province; the relationship between the Chinese Government and the Chiang Kai-shek clique on Taiwan is one between the Central Government and local authorities. China is willing to negotiate with the United States to settle the issues between the two countries. But it will absolutely not permit the United States to confuse negotiation between China and the United States for relaxing tension in the Taiwan area—which is an issue between nations—with the exercise by China of her sovereign rights in the Taiwan area—which is a domestic question.

This is China's position. Basing itself on this position, the Chinese side, in its efforts to find practical and effective ways to relax tension in the Taiwan area, proposed three draft agreements at the Geneva talks.

On October 27, 1955 the Chinese side submitted its first draft. China and the United States, the draft provides, should settle their disputes by peaceful means without resorting to the threat or use of force. In order to realize this common desire, a Sino-American conference of foreign ministers should be held to negotiate a settlement of the question of relaxing and eliminating tension in the Taiwan area.

On December 1, 1955 the Chinese side put forward a second draft stating that China and the United States are resolved to settle their disputes through peaceful negotiation without resorting to the threat or use of force. The Chinese and the American ambassadors, the draft provides, should continue their talks to seek practical and feasible means for the realization of this common desire.

On May 11, 1956, the Chinese side put forward a third draft agreement. It proposed that China and the United States should affirm their intention of settling disputes between them in the Taiwan area through peaceful negotiation without resorting to the threat or use of force; and that the Chinese and the American ambassadors should continue talks to seek and settle on practical and feasible means within two months to implement this common desire, including the holding of a Sino-American foreign ministers' conference, and to make concrete arrangements for the purpose.

All the three proposals were rejected by the U.S. side.

What kind of agreement was the United States after?

During the talks, the U.S. side put forward three counter-proposals. All of them demanded, in substance, that China recognize the "right" of the United States to "self-defence" on China's territory, Taiwan, while China, on her part, should not exercise her sovereignty over the island. Meanwhile, the Chinese proposal for a Sino-

American foreign ministers' conference was rejected by the U.S. side.

The U.S. demand that China renounce the use of force with regard to Taiwan is a preposterous proposition. It is true that China, in her relations with foreign countries, the United States included, consistently stands for settling international disputes peacefully without resorting to force. But how China chooses to deal with its territory Taiwan is a domestic question. Here the problem of resorting to force as between nations does not arise. The U.S. demand, in effect, is that China should refrain from exercising sovereignty over a part of her territory and, instead, recognize the status quo of Taiwan—where the U.S. has already resorted to force.

The right of self-defence is an enticing term. But no country should ask for the "right of self-defence" on the territory of another. The United States, however, is making a claim for just such a "right" on China's territory, Taiwan. What does this U.S. demand mean? It means that China will have to recognize not only the status quo of U.S. occupation of Taiwan but also the irrevocability of this state of affairs. It is tantamount to asking China to recognize that Taiwan is a part of American territory—where the United States has the "right of self-defence."

The record shows clearly that the United States did not intend to settle practical disputes between the two countries in the Taiwan area, and that it merely tried to trick China into accepting a declaration that would acquiesce in the status quo of U.S. occupation of Taiwan. It goes without saying that the Chinese people will not fall for this trick in any shape or manner.

The talks on eliminating tension in the Taiwan area dragged on from September 1955 down to the latter half of 1956. No agreement was reached.

Trade and Cultural Exchange

In view of U.S. refusal to reach agreement on the question of eliminating tension in the Taiwan area, the Chinese side made a series of reasonable proposals on other matters that would help improve Sino-American relations. China hopes that the solution of certain easier questions, in the interests of the peoples of the two countries, would improve the atmosphere of the talks and help resolve other issues.

The Chinese representative, on August 21 and September 22, 1956 respectively, made proposals to remove the present barriers to trade between the two countries, as well as barriers to contact and cultural exchange between the two peoples.

The U.S. representative, however, refused to discuss these proposals on the pretext that no agreement on the renunciation of the use of force had been reached. Actually the United States, on the one hand, refused to reach an agreement on the renunciation of force, and on the other hand, used this as a prior condition for discussing other questions.

Journalists

On August 22, 1957 the U.S. State Department made a unilateral announcement to the effect that it would grant passports to a limited number of picked U.S. newspapermen to go to China and gather information there. At the same time it declared that it would refuse to issue reciprocal visas to Chinese newspapermen to

enter the United States. This action flagrantly contravened the principle of reciprocity in international relations. On September 24, the Chinese representative at the Sino-American talks proposed a draft agreement on according permission to newspapermen of each country to gather news in the other on an equal and reciprocal basis. The American representative refused to agree to the draft on the pretext that under the U.S. Immigration Law such reciprocity could not be guaranteed.

Judicial Assistance

In view of the fact that a U.S. Federal Court had written to the Chinese Ministry of Justice on September 3, 1957, asking for judicial assistance in connection with the Powell case (see *Peking Review* Nos. 2 and 7), the Chinese side at the ambassadorial talks proposed, on December 12, 1957, a draft declaration on negotiating a judicial assistance agreement. The U.S. side refused to discuss the Chinese proposal, on the pretext that the application of the U.S. court was made upon the request of the defence and had nothing to do with the U.S. Government.

Thus, from the latter half of 1956 up to the end of 1957, despite the many proposals made by the Chinese side for improving Sino-American relations, the talks were bogged down and made no progress at all. The only reason for the stalemate was U.S. stalling and obstruction.

U.S. Goes Back On Its Word

On December 12, 1957, Ambassador U. A. Johnson informed Ambassador Wang Ping-nan that he had been

transferred to a new post and that the U.S. Government had designated his assistant, Mr. Edwin W. Martin, as the U.S. representative.

The Sino-American talks are on an ambassadorial level as a result of consultations between the Chinese and U.S. Governments. The designation by the U.S. Government of a representative without the rank of ambassador is inconsistent with the arrangement agreed upon. Ambassador Wang Ping-nan pointed out at the time and reiterated in his reply to Ambassador Johnson, on January 14, 1958, that the American side was actually trying to go back on the agreed arrangement and to end the talks in fact if not in name. He declared that the U.S. side should designate a representative with ambassadorial rank as soon as possible.

In his reply to Ambassador Wang Ping-nan on March 12, 1958, Mr. Martin indicated that the U.S. Government would continue to postpone the designation of such a representative. Ambassador Wang Ping-nan's assistant Lai Ya-li was therefore instructed to reply to Mr. Martin on March 26, 1958 that the Chinese side could not agree to a unilateral change of the level of the ambassadorial talks, nor to their prolonged suspension on administrative pretexts. He urged that the U.S. side should not procrastinate. The U.S. side, however, has not yet done anything about this. The talks have thus been suspended since December 12.

It is apparent, from the record, that the game played by the United States at Panmunjom is now being repeated at Geneva. But how long can this go on?

Facts and Background

China Goes to the Polls

by TAO LI-WEN

THE largest electorate in the world is going to the polls in China's second general elections.

Deputies to the National People's Congress, the highest organ of state power in the country, and the local people's congresses will be elected.

Owing to the vast size and population of the country and the great diversity of conditions in different areas, the elections take place by stages, over a period of several months. The local elections are already in progress. The election of deputies to the local people's congresses at and below county and city levels will be completed by the end of May; election to the people's congresses at the level of provinces, autonomous regions, and cities directly under the central authority (Peking and Shanghai) by June 15; and the election of the deputies to the National People's Congress is scheduled to be completed by July 15.

Elections in China are governed by the Electoral Law, promulgated on March 1, 1953, which gave the Chinese

people universal suffrage for the first time in history. In old China, elections were a farce. The working people had no electoral rights. The right of a worker to hold office was unimaginable. The candidates were invariably officials, compradors, landlords and their hangers-on, and anybody but representatives of the working people.

New China's electoral system is a manifestation of people's democracy. Here are some of its outstanding features.

All citizens who have reached the age of eighteen have the right to vote and stand for election, irrespective of nationality, race, sex, occupation, social origin, religious belief, education, property status or length of residence. The only exceptions are those landlords who, according to law, have not yet changed their class status, counter-revolutionaries who have been deprived of political rights according to law, other convicts and insane persons — all in all only a tiny fraction of the population.

The Chinese Electoral Law has completely abolished discrimination against women, youth, members of the armed forces and national minorities.

The right of women to be elected, as well as to vote, is explicitly guaranteed.

The principle of national equality is underlined. Article 1 of the Electoral Law provides that "the National People's Congress and the local people's congresses of all levels of the People's Republic of China shall be elected by the people of all nationalities on the basis of universal suffrage. . . ."

The Electoral Law has a special chapter on the representation of the national minorities. It provides that the number of their deputies to the N.P.C. shall be 150 (out of 1,226 in the present congress). Besides this fixed number, if yet more national minority deputies are elected to the N.P.C. they will not be included in the 150. The number, therefore, is not a maximum, but a fixed minimum.

Provisions have also been made for the right to vote of members of the people's armed forces and oversea Chinese.

The number of deputies to the N.P.C. and the local people's congresses of all levels and their election are based on a fixed proportion to the population. Adequate consideration is given to different electoral districts and units, i.e. to the relative strength between cities and countryside, between industrial centres and rural districts, between large and small provinces. The principle is greater representation for the working class. The Law provides that deputies elected from the rural areas will represent a greater number of people than those elected from the cities. In the 1953-54 elections, the provinces seated one deputy to the N.P.C. for every 800,000 people; the industrial cities seated one deputy for every 100,000 people.

Similar provisions have been made regarding the election of deputies to the provincial, municipal and county people's congresses. This is because municipalities are political, economic and cultural centres where workers and industries are concentrated. The difference in the number of persons represented by each deputy reflects the leading role played by the working class in the state and, at the same time, indicates China's development towards industrialization.

Direct and Indirect Elections

The general elections are carried out by stages. In the first stage of the present elections, deputies to the people's congresses of townships, towns, municipal districts of larger cities and those municipalities which do not have districts will be elected. (There were over 210,000 such local organs of state power in 1954.) These basic units will then go on to elect the local people's congresses of the next higher level — people's congresses at county and municipal level. These in turn will meet to elect the people's congresses for the provinces and autonomous regions. Finally these provincial and regional people's congresses will elect the new National People's Congress. In other words, the electoral system provides for both direct and indirect elections.

The people's congresses of the basic electoral units — townships, towns, municipal districts and municipalities

without districts — are elected directly, and the people's congresses of the counties and higher levels are elected indirectly.

Due to the vastness of the country, inadequate communications and the majority of the people's lack of experience in large-scale, direct elections, it is impossible to hold direct elections at all levels for the time being. The present method, therefore, suits the present conditions in China. It is flexible and convenient for the convocation of the people's congresses and it enables the people's deputies to carry out their duties effectively.

Voting Procedures

In the election of the deputies to the people's congresses of the county and higher levels, people vote by secret ballot. In the elections in the basic units the method of a show of hands is also adopted.

Inherited social conditions in China are the reason for this. Many people never had any experience in elections prior to the liberation and many still cannot read or write. This of course does not preclude the gradual introduction of the secret ballot in smaller localities when conditions mature. In fact, as a result of the rapid development of agricultural co-operation and the education and political consciousness of China's 500 million peasants, election by secret ballot was already introduced in many townships and towns in the 1956 local elections.

A striking demonstration of the democratic spirit of the elections is the way candidates are nominated. Article 47 of the Electoral Law provides:

The Communist Party of China, the various democratic parties, the various people's organizations and electors or representatives who are not affiliated to the above-mentioned parties or organizations may all nominate candidates for election as deputies either jointly or separately for electoral districts or electoral units.

However, if voters want to nominate candidates separately, they may pick anybody they please as a candidate.

Experience has shown that joint nomination is better than individual nomination — because it is based on multiple opinions from various quarters, and because candidates enjoying the support of organizations have a better chance of election. Joint nomination helps make the people's congresses representative of the broad masses. It not only makes sure that the democratic rights of the workers, peasants and other working people are effectively exercised, but also that the members of the capitalist class, who constitute a very small proportion of the whole population, and other small sections of the people, can also have representation in the organs of the state authority.

There are several steps in the electoral process. Before the joint nomination of candidates, the members of the Communist Party, democratic parties, people's organizations and co-operatives go to the voters and discuss possible choices for candidates. In Chinese this phase of the electoral process is called "*yun niang*," which means "exchange of opinion." Later, the electoral committee invites representatives from all of these groups to confer and prepare a draft list of candidates, which then goes back to the people for further discussion and revision. Finally, the list of candidates is published by the electoral committee. Because of the full discussions

beforehand, by this time the voters are familiar with the list of candidates and their qualifications.

Article 51 of the Electoral Law says:

An elector may vote in accordance with the list of candidates or for any other elector he may choose.

No one has to vote for all of the listed nominees, or for any of them, if he prefers someone else. It is not true, moreover, that in China the inclusion of a candidate on the official list is tantamount to election. To be elected, a candidate must get *more than half of the total votes*, as prescribed by law, otherwise he or she cannot become a people's deputy.

Fundamental Difference

The electoral system of a country is linked with the political basis of the state. New China is a people's democracy, and its election system is a democratic electoral system of the new type. Both in content and form it gives expression to people's democracy and socialism, to the leadership of the working class and the supremacy of the working people of town and country over all exploiters.

In China, the right to vote is accorded to everybody but a handful of proven enemies of the people, defined by law. The following four categories are excepted:

Elements of the landlord class whose status has not yet been changed according to law; counter-revolutionaries who have been deprived of political rights according to law; others who have been deprived of political rights according to law; and insane persons.

The first three restrictions are manifestations of the people's democratic dictatorship, which is not "absolute democracy" but combines democracy among the people with dictatorship over the reactionaries. The two are parts of an integral whole. Only when there is dictatorship over the reactionaries can the rights of the broad masses and democracy for the people be ensured.

This is the fundamental difference between people's democracy and bourgeois democracy, between China's electoral system and electoral systems of capitalist countries. In the latter, the aim of the ruling class is to protect the electoral rights of a minority of exploiters, and to use every means to limit the voting rights of the working people. In the United States, for instance, there are 50 kinds of qualifications restricting the people's right to vote (residential, educational, etc.)—and their brunt falls on the poorer and less educated workers, the Negro people, migratory agricultural labour, and so on.

Figures of actual participation in elections prove how much more universal China's electoral system is, in practice, as compared with capitalist countries. 323,809,684 voters—97.18 per cent of the total number of people of voting age—registered in all the electoral areas taken together in China's first general elections in 1953-54. In the same areas those who were deprived of electoral rights according to law, or were mentally unfit to vote, comprised only 2.82 per cent.

By contrast, in the 1952 general elections in the United States, according to the estimate of the Associated Press, about 25 million people were deprived of the franchise—roughly one-fourth of the total number of people of voting

age. According to the American Heritage Foundation in the 1956 elections more than 17 million Americans of voting age were unable to cast their ballots through no fault of their own.

Representation

In the capitalist countries the electoral system guarantees the supremacy of the bourgeoisie. In a number of such countries, there are people, usually members of the propertied classes, who can cast two or more votes. In Britain before 1948, capitalists could vote once in their place of residence and once in the areas where their factories were located. University instructors and students, likewise, had two votes each—one to elect the Member of Parliament for the universities and one to elect the M.P. for the locality.

The Chinese Electoral Law provides: "Each elector shall have one vote only," and "an elector shall register only once." Equality in electoral rights is thus fully ensured.

In China, as we have already noted, the rights of the national minorities are guaranteed by law. The minorities constitute about 6 per cent of China's total population but there are 177 deputies of the national minorities sitting in the National People's Congress, i.e. over 14 per cent of the total number of deputies. By contrast, the Negroes in the United States constitute 10.4 per cent of the population of that country, but there are only three Negroes in the Congress.

In the First National People's Congress and the local people's congresses, women constitute 17.31 per cent of the total number of deputies. Of the 1,226 deputies to the First National People's Congress, 147 are women.

In contrast, there are only 17 women in the Congress of the United States, 38 years after women's suffrage was introduced. In Britain, where the right to vote was extended to women only as late as 1928, there are few women in Parliament. In France, although the 1789 Declaration of Human Rights says that "men are born free and born equal in rights," women's suffrage was not provided for in the Constitution until 1946, and women comprise only 3.6 per cent of the total number of deputies in the present French Assembly. Today, many countries in the world still do not have women's suffrage.

Nominating Process

In China, as we have seen, nominations are made in a democratic process involving a large body of the voters from the very start. In the capitalist countries candidates are frequently chosen by small groups of the rich, or by political party bosses in "smoke-filled rooms." An article on the subject of nomination in the U.S.A. by Clayton Knowles in *The New York Times* of November 24, 1952 is headed: "Voter is far removed in nominating process. Primaries are only partly democratic and bosses control conventions." The article goes on to say: "The same people are elected year after year to the district or state conventions and, generally speaking, they are the party bosses, responsive in turn to the big boss who makes the quiet deals with the national candidate who seems most promising to him."

On the same subject, *U.S. News and World Report* (February 1, 1952) had this to say: "Is a President the

people's choice? Only if he's the politicians' choice, too. Voters have little to say about who runs. Picking a nominee starts way down in the townships. Politicians are in charge there. They stay in charge through the counties, states and national conventions. Voters get their turn after politicians set the stage." All this boils down to: "Politicians pick two men, people take one."

In the capitalist countries, candidates can get "in" with only a very small part of the total vote. In Britain and the United States, election is by a relative majority. Where there are a number of candidates, or where few voters go to the polls, it is possible to be elected with only 5 to 10 per cent of the popular vote. China, by contrast, employs the principle of absolute majority. A deputy can be elected only after receiving more than half of the votes cast.

In the capitalist countries, only candidates with large funds of their own or the backing of powerful financial

groups can afford the expense of election campaigns. The working people are thus seriously discriminated against. In China, election expenses for all candidates are borne by the national treasury, so there is no inequality in this vital respect.

Finally, the statistics on China's first general elections (1953-54) show that, at the primary levels, 85.88 per cent of all registered voters, and in some places over 99 per cent, cast their votes. Most of the candidates were elected with over 90 per cent of the votes. In contrast, in the latest Congressional elections in the United States only 57.3 per cent of the people of voting age cast their votes. In the 1948 Presidential elections, too, as reported by Arthur Krock in *The New York Times* (Feb. 20, 1952) there was "a majority of abstainers over voters."

In China the people exercise the right to vote and deputies are the popular choice of the overwhelming majority of the voters.

Quick Guide to China's Expanded Railways

WITH some 5,000 kilometres of new lines built during the First Five-Year Plan (1953-1957), a far-flung railway network is shaping up in China. In the past most railways were concentrated in the seaboard provinces. Now new lines extend far into the interior.

Efforts have also been made to improve existing lines, such as double tracking and the installation of automatic blocking systems which increase capacity considerably.

Railways Improved

The improved railway lines and the newly built ones are:

The **Peking-Shanhaikuan** and **Shenyang-Shanhaikuan** lines link the important cities of Peking, Tientsin, Tangshan, Chinchow and Shenyang as well as the seaports of Tangku, Chinwangtao and Hulutao.

These two railways carry some of the heaviest traffic. They were entirely double tracked in 1954.

The **Harbin-Dairen** line links Harbin, Changchun, Szeping, Shenyang, Anshan, and Dairen. It is the main axis of the railway network in north-east China. The double tracks, badly damaged before liberation, were fully repaired in 1957. Automatic blocking systems were installed on certain sections between Tientsin, Shenyang and Changchun.

The **Shenyang-Antung** line is part of an international line linking China and Korea. Now the double track is being repaired.

The **Shenyang-Kirin**, **Harbin-Peian** and **Suihua-Kiamusze** lines have also been improved. Gradients were reduced and station lines extended.

The **Peking-Hankow** line is the artery linking north and south China. The section between Peking and Chengchow as well as that between Lichiachai and Wushengkuan, where traffic was heaviest, were double tracked. The other sections will be double tracked in the Second Five-Year Plan.

The **Peking-Paotow** line links north China with Inner Mongolia. The new Fengtai-Shacheng section was built as a parallel to the old Nankow-Kangchuang section. The new section has a much smaller gradient and this considerably facilitates transportation. It will be completely electrified during the Second Five-Year Plan to cope with the needs of increasing traffic. In addition, the section between Tatung and Tsining was rebuilt and double tracking has begun between Shacheng and Tatung.

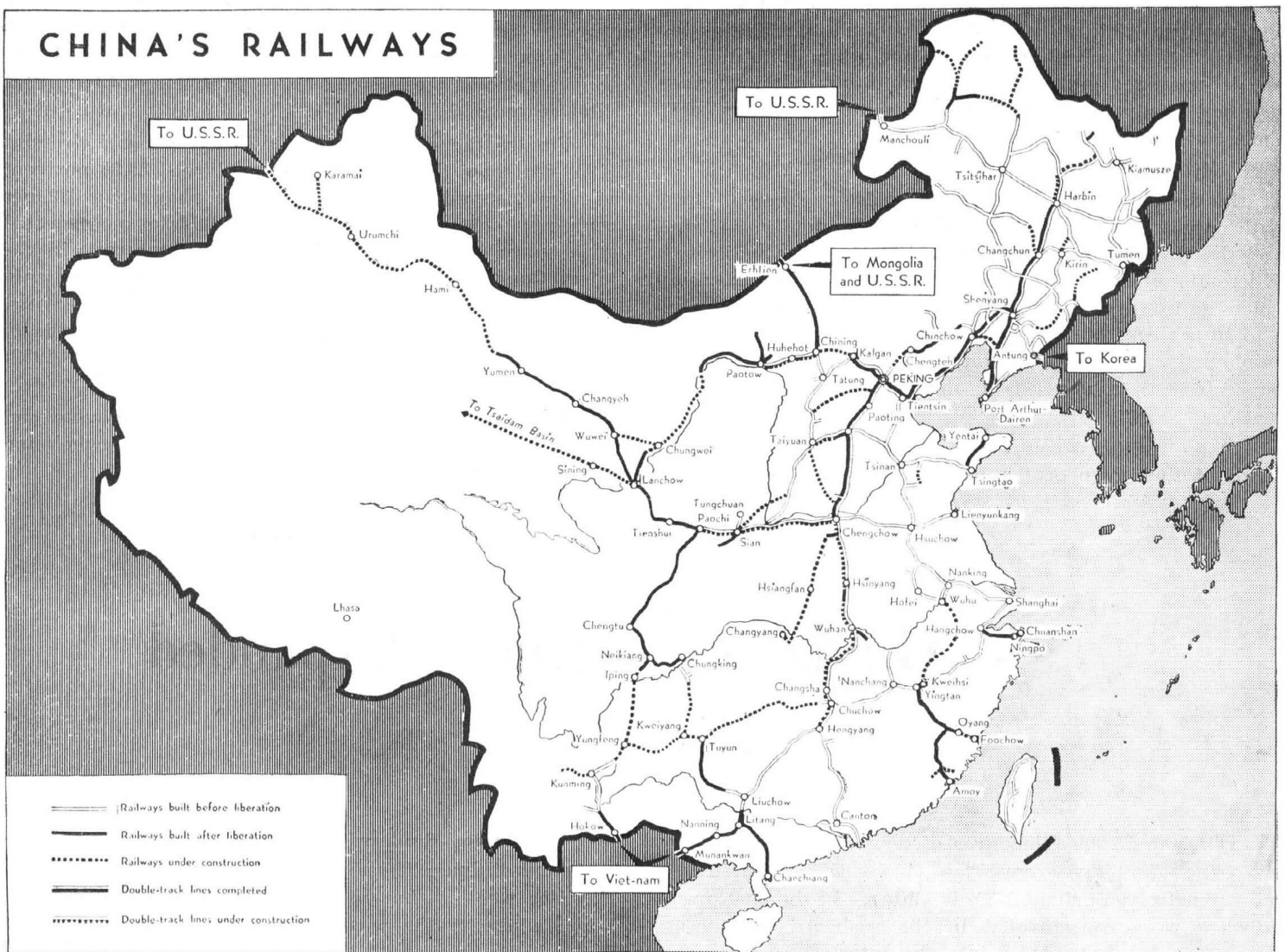
The **Shihchiachuang-Taiyuan** line provides the main outlet for Shansi Province to other areas. Double tracking between Shihchiachuang and Yangchuan began during the First Five-Year Plan.

The **Tatung-Puchow** line in Shansi had a narrow-gauge section south of Taiyuan. This was widened in 1955, making connections with other lines possible. Overall technical improvement began in 1956.

The **Lanchow-Haichow** line is China's main east-west trunk line. Double tracks are being laid between Chengchow, Loyang and Shanhsien (where the giant Sanmen Gorge Dam is being built). The Paochi-Tienshui section, known as the "appendix" of the railway because of low efficiency, was improved.

The **Shanghai-Nanking** line was also improved. Rails were replaced with those of a heavier type and station

CHINA'S RAILWAYS



This map does not include new lines, which have been projected for the Second Five-Year Plan, but on which work has not yet started

Map by Su Li

lines were extended to cope with the rapidly increasing traffic.

Together with the improvement of the above-mentioned and other trunk lines, a number of railway hub stations were built or expanded. Modern hump shunting yards are being built at the Fengtai and Suchiatun stations. Each of these, when completed, will handle more than 6,000 wagons in 24 hours.

The completion of the great Wuhan Yangtse River Bridge last year joins the **Peking-Hankow** and **Canton-Hankow** trunk lines into one, now renamed the **Peking-Canton line**, stretching over 2,300 kilometres and forming the main artery of the Chinese railway network.

New Lines

The **Tsining-Erhlien** line extends from Tsining on the Peking-Paotow line to Erhlien on the Sino-Mongolian border with a total of 337 kilometres. It shortens the rail distance between Peking and Moscow by 1,100 kilometres.

The **Lanchow-Sinkiang** line, under construction, will extend the **Lanchow-Haichow** trunk line westward through Urumchi to Aktogay where it will link up with the Soviet Turksib Railway. This will further shorten the rail distance between Peking and Moscow by

more than 1,000 kilometres. Now rail laying is in progress in Sinkiang. Train service east of Yumen, the oil centre, has already been opened. When completed, this railway will be the longest in China—2,400 kilometres.

Work on the **Paotow-Lanchow** line of more than 1,000 kilometres was started in 1954. By the end of 1957, more than 400 kilometres of rail had been laid. The entire line will be completed this year. This will facilitate the building of the new iron and steel base at Paotow.

The **Lanchow-Chinghai** line was scheduled to be built in the Second Five-Year Plan. But work on the Lanchow-Sining section began in 1956 owing to the stepping up of the development programme of the Tsaidam Basin in Chinghai Province.

With the construction of the Lanchow-Sinkiang, Paotow-Lanchow and Lanchow-Chinghai lines, a railway network with Lanchow as its hub is taking shape in north-west China.

Work on the **Paotchi-Chengtzu** line, 668 kilometres long, linking north-west and south-west China, began in 1952. Track laying was completed in 1956. It was opened to traffic early this year. As this line traverses the most difficult mountainous terrain, its completion is a real engineering feat. Owing to the sharp gradient between

Paochi and Fenghsien, trains running on this 91-kilometre section are driven by two engines. It will be electrified in the Second Five-Year Plan.

In order to speed economic development of south-west China, work started ahead of schedule on several lines involving great technical difficulties.

Part of the **Szechuan-Kweichow line** was a special line used by the mines before liberation. It is now being rebuilt. A new section now under construction will extend it from Kanshuicheng to Kweiyang, provincial capital of Kweichow. When the bridge across the Yangtse at Chungking now under construction is completed, this 320-kilometre line will be linked up with the Chungking-Chengtuo line.

The **Kweichow-Kwangsi line**. Repair of the 308-kilometre Tuyun-Chinchengkiang section was completed and construction of the Tuyun-Kweiyang section (140 kilometres) is under way.

The Szechuan-Kweichow and the Kweichow-Kwangsi lines will greatly improve communications in Kweichow Province.

The **Neikiang-Kunming line** begins at Neikiang on the Chungking-Chengtuo line, runs through Tzukung and Iping and ends at Kunming. (There is a section between Chanyi and Kunming which will be rebuilt.) Construction of this 700-kilometre line began in 1956. By the end of 1957, train service was opened on the section between Neikiang and Shuping, south of Tzekung. When completed, this will provide a link between the Yunnan-Vietnam line and railways in other parts of China.

The **Yunnan-Vietnam line** was restored and opened to traffic this year, forming yet another link with the Democratic Republic of Viet-nam. The other is the Laiping-Munankuan line in Kwangsi Province.

New lines extending to the coastal ports include the following:

Chinese Railways, Today and Yesterday

MILEAGE—In old China, from 1876, when the first railway—the Woosung-Shanghai line—was built to 1948, the year before the liberation, 27,112 kilometres of railways were laid. So on the average, in the 73 years prior to the founding of the Chinese People's Republic, 371 kilometres of railways were built every year.

By comparison, in the first eight years after the liberation (1950-1957), a total of 9,665 kilometres of railways (not including branch lines and special lines used by factories and mines) were built. This represents an annual average of 1,208 kilometres, more than three times that of the past period.

PACE OF CONSTRUCTION—Before the liberation, it took the Kuomintang government 3 years and 11 months to build over flat land the 344-kilometre Hangchow-Yushan section of the Chekiang-Kiangsi Railway. The Paochi-Tienschui Railway in the north-west, 154 kilometres long, took 6½ years and it was a bad job. Sunken beds and broken rails were frequent, as shippers and passengers knew to their cost.

Since the liberation, railway construction has proceeded at a greater tempo. On the Paochi-Chengtuo Railway, 668 kilometres over mountains, with many tunnels, from Shensi to Szechuan Province—the engineering work was exceedingly difficult. Nonetheless, the job was done in four years. The Yingtian-Amoy Railway with a length of 698 kilometres, was built in only two years and one month.

SOURCE OF CAPITAL—Before liberation most of the Chinese railways were wholly or partly foreign financed. The figures for 1936 show that 90.7 per cent of the mileage was built with foreign investment. In the 50 years from 1887 to 1937 railway loans obtained from eight foreign countries—Britain, the United States, France, Japan, Germany, the Netherlands, tsarist Russia, and Belgium—amounted to 1,083,610,000 silver yuan (roughly U.S.\$300 million). Of this total 305,250,000 yuan were

borrowed by the Kuomintang regime. Huge amounts of interest—at rates up to 10 per cent per annum—had to be paid on these borrowings. In New China, railway construction is financed entirely with home capital.

HOME-PRODUCED EQUIPMENT—Before liberation China had to import practically all her locomotives and wagons. Since liberation, by contrast, hundreds of modern railway engines have been built in China. Two new types of freight-hauling locomotives designed by Chinese engineers specifically for conditions in this country have been successfully tested and are now in regular production. The manufacture of electric railway engines is also being prepared.

SPEED OF TRAFFIC—Before liberation, with the exception of a very few lines on which trains ran at a comparatively high speed, all China's railways had a traffic speed of less than 50 kilometres an hour. In New China, owing to the improvements made on tracks and bridges, the permissible traffic speed on all lines is over 70 kilometres p.h.

In 1937 it took 37 hours and 40 minutes to travel by train from Peking to Shanghai. The Kuomintang government considered this quick, and frequently boasted of it. Now the trip has been shortened by more than nine hours.

VOLUME OF TRAFFIC—Compared with 1936, the best railway year under the Kuomintang, the volume of passenger traffic in 1957 is some 4.5 times as great, while freight traffic has increased 7.7 times.

LOWER OPERATING COSTS—In 1935, under the Kuomintang, the operating costs of the state railways were nearly four times those in New China in 1957; and the administrative expenses of the railways were 23.7 per cent of their total expenditures. In New China, in 1957, administrative costs amounted to only 4.3 per cent. That is why, though freight rates are lower than in old China, the railways now make a bigger profit.

The **Litang-Chankiang line** of 317 kilometres was completed in 1955. It links Litang on the Hunan-Kwangsi line in the Kwangsi Chuang Autonomous Region and the port of Chankiang on the Leichow Peninsula in Kwangtung Province which has been expanded into a modern port since liberation.

The **Yingtian-Amoy line** is 698 kilometres long. It links Yingtian on the Chekiang-Kiangsi line and Amoy in Fukien Province and was completed in 1956. The Nanping-Foochow line (170 kilometres) also in Fukien Province is now under construction.

The **Hsiaoshan-Chuanshan line** in Chekiang Province. Before liberation, a railway was built between Hsiaoshan and Ningpo. But the entire line had never been opened to traffic. It became a highway during the War of Resistance to Japanese Aggression. Now the Hsiaoshan-

Ningpo section is completely restored and opened to traffic.

The **Lantsun-Yentai line** in Shantung Province begins at Lantsun on the Tsinan-Tsingtao line and ends at the port of Yentai (Chefoo) with a total length of 183 kilometres. It was opened to traffic on New Year's Day, 1956.

The **Peking-Chengteh line**. There was an old line, the greater part of which was destroyed before liberation. The section between Peking and Huaijou has been repaired since liberation. That between Miyun and Chengteh will not be restored because it suffers from sharp gradients and curves. Instead, a new section through Yingshouyingtzu and Shangpancheng is under construction.

During the period under review, many branch lines were also built for factories, mines and timber areas.

Afforestation

Turning the Whole Country Green

by HU KU-YUEH

China plans to double her forest area within ten years — from 10 per cent to 20 per cent of the country's surface. People are planting trees everywhere. It is expected that 300 million *mou* will be afforested this year.

在 1956 年 实际 植树 400 million *mou*
see *PR* 1959, No. 20, p. 11.

SPRING is the season for planting trees. This spring, the Chinese people have planted a great many. In the first quarter of this year (January 1 to April 4), 221.74 million *mou* of land were afforested — 14 per cent more than the total for the past eight years. In the same three months 8,300 million trees were planted near houses, around villages and along roads and river banks — 4,600 million of them in Kiangsu Province. This means each household in Kiangsu has planted, on the average, no less than 500 trees.

To date, more than 10 per cent of all China's 2,000 counties have been "made green," as have many once-denuded mountains.

Hundreds of miles of shelter belts were planted in a matter of days along the Yangtse, Yellow and Huai Rivers. All along the seashores from the estuary of the Yalu River on the Korean border, to the Peilun River in the south, near the Viet-nam border, coastal shelter belts are being planted.

Pace Setters

Inspired by the demonstrated advantages of afforestation, the co-op farmers everywhere are planting trees with great energy. In many places they broke the age-old tradition and braved severe winter weather to make an early start. When spring set in, the movement really gathered momentum. Farmers in Anhwei Province fulfilled their afforestation plan for all 1958 (4.4 million *mou*) in the single month of January. They then raised their sights to 8.8 million *mou*, and, by the end of March, they

had already planted 27.4 million *mou*. They are still going strong.

In mountainous Kweichow Province, afforestation is going ahead at a tremendous speed. Kweichow's people planted over 39 million *mou* of trees in the first quarter of this year — 2.5 *mou* for every one of its 16 million people.

In Chinping County in the Miao and Tung Autonomous *Chou* in the southeastern part of the province, tens of thousands turned out every day in January and February to plant "Miao pines" — a famous tall and sturdy local variety. They have already fulfilled their ten-year plan of planting such trees all over the county — more than nine years ahead of schedule.

The northern provinces, which had a slower start because of the cold weather, dashed forward at great speed once they had begun. Fourteen afforestation headquarters were established in Kansu where soil erosion is serious. A shelter belt is being planted stretching over 2,300 kilometres from Huanhsien County in the east through Yenchih, Yumen (the oil centre), Tunhuang (where the famous grotto murals are) to Hsinghsinghsia (the Valley of Stars). Barren mountains and wastes are being afforested as part of the Yellow River control scheme. This will reduce silting and prolong the useful life of reservoirs being built further downstream.

The Shangchiu Administrative Area, comprising ten counties in Honan Province, is the first in the country to achieve full afforestation. This spring, trees were planted there in almost every place they could grow — beside rivers, ponds, wells and dykes, houses and villages, as well as on uncultivated land and along all the highways (1,800 kilometres) and dirt roads (25,000 kilometres).

According to a recent directive of the People's Government, the forest area will be doubled within ten

Afforestation During the First Five-Year Plan

During her First Five-Year Plan China planted trees on an area greater than all the forests of Britain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Greece and Italy combined.

The grand total of over 169,350,000 *mou* (including the estimate for 1957 for which the final figure is not yet in) exceeds more than 30-fold all the tree plantings in old China between 1911-1946.

AFFORESTATION, 1953-57

	(in <i>mou</i>)
Timber	77,430,000
Industrial trees	32,385,000
Shelter belts	22,095,000
For water and soil conservation	20,970,000
Miscellaneous	16,470,000
	<hr/> 169,350,000

Timber for Building: This has been the main aim. In the next 30 years, between 700 million and 800 million cubic metres will be cut from the forests planted in 1953-57.

Industrial Crop Yielding Trees: Most tung (*Aleurites cordata*), tea-oil (*Thea oleosa*) and camphor trees have been planted south of the Yangtse River; and rubber, palm, coconut and coffee in subtropical regions like Hainan Island and southern Yunnan.

Shelter Belts: These have been planted in the western part of northeast China, eastern Inner Mongolia, eastern Honan, north Shensi, Shantung and Hopei Provinces, along the coast of Kwangtung Province, and in the Kansu Corridor west of the Yellow River. Three others are planned for the Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region — in the Turfan Basin, circling the Tarim Basin, and the northern slopes of the Tienshan Mountains. There will be a fourth shelter belt far south on Hainan Island. Surveys have been made and planting has started on some of the above.

The change-over to co-operative farming has boosted the planting of shelter belts by rural townships and agricultural producers' co-operatives in all parts of China. In eastern Honan Province, where sandstorms menace agriculture, 2,550,000 *mou* of land have been protected in

this way. The old bed of the Yellow River, once bleak and barren, is now green with luxuriant tree-bordered fields of wheat, cotton, groundnuts, etc.

In northeast China, shelter trees planted in Liaoning Province five or six years ago have grown to a height of two or three metres, and block sandstorms from neighbouring Inner Mongolia. Sand dunes are being anchored down. The productivity of the protected farm lands has increased by 50 per cent or more.

Water-and-Soil Conservation Forests: These are located along the middle and upper reaches of many rivers. In addition, 10,050,000 *mou* of mountain land has been closed for forest growth.

Forests in "miscellaneous" category produce firewood, wood for charcoal-burning, etc.

Care and Replacement: During the past five years 3,735,000 *mou* (26.7 per cent of the felling area in state-owned forests) have been re-planted. Several thousand people are now busy with forest surveys. In 1954, helped by Soviet specialists, China made her first forest air reconnaissance. By the end of 1957 about 90 per cent of her forest wealth had been surveyed, revealing a hitherto unsuspected abundance and variety.

Since 1953, the government has established 975 forestry offices, which already take care of half of the state-owned forests. Their work includes fire prevention, supervision of felling and reafforestation.

Much has been done in the past five years to prevent and exterminate forest pests. By 1956, the area plagued by bamboo locusts had been reduced to less than 4 per cent of what it was in 1952.

Forest Routes: To increase timber production and the rate of tree growth, tree-felling in scattered small tracts will gradually replace wholesale big-area felling. Timely use can thus be made of all mature or over-ripe timber.

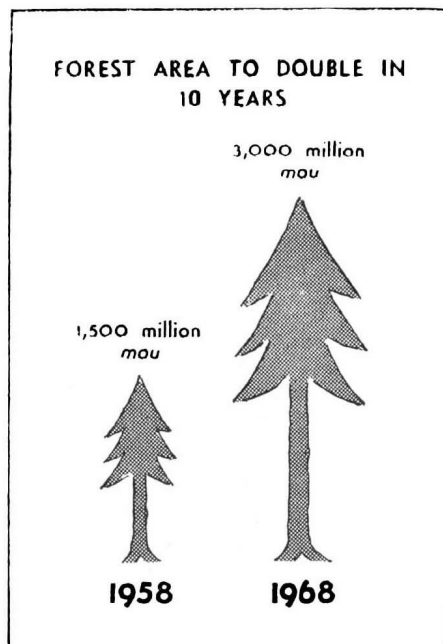
But this involves going deep into the forests, not just working from the edges. Hence the great importance of more forest routes. In the First Five-Year Plan, over 10,000 kilometres were built, but this is still far from enough. More are being built.

years — from the present 1,500 million *mou* to over 3,000 million *mou*, i.e. from 10 per cent to more than 20 per cent of the country's surface. It is expected that 300 million *mou* will be afforested this year throughout China. If this rate of progress is maintained, the above-mentioned target will be reached considerably ahead of schedule. According to the same directive, the national timber reserve will reach 8,000 million cubic metres in fifteen years, one-third more than at present.

The purpose of this magnificent plan to transform nature is to conserve soil and water, conquer flood and drought and supply more timber for capital construction.

Valuable forest products, apart from timber, include tung oil, tea-seed oil, lacquer, resin, camphor, nutgalls, walnuts, fruits, silk cocoons, tea, rubber and furs and skins. Most of the substances used in Chinese medicine also come from forested mountains. Of a list of 358 major ingredients, four-fifths grow wild in such areas,

their output being valued at around 200 million yuan a year. Afforestation is an important way of raising the income of co-op farmers, especially in mountainous areas.

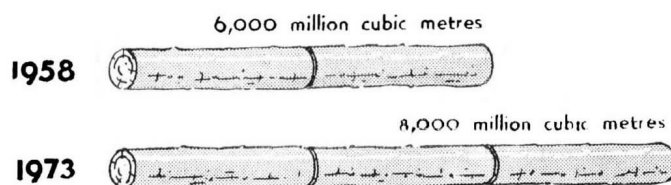


Planning

Planning of forests is co-ordinated with the development of agriculture and animal husbandry. The rate of afforestation varies with conditions in different provinces. In northwestern and northern China where the forested area is smallest and soil erosion is the worst, the greatest effort is being made. Provinces with favourable conditions are striving to expand forests to 30-40 per cent or more of their surface. All areas with deficits in timber and other forest products are striving for self-sufficiency in a few years.

Programmes drawn up by the various provinces and co-ordinated centrally take into account the many needs of national construction and the

TIMBER RESERVE TO INCREASE BY A THIRD IN 15 YEARS



people's life. A proper balance is kept between forests for timber, fuel and other economic purposes and shelter belts to conserve soil and water, block sand and wind and protect sea coasts.

To increase the forest area and timber supply in the shortest time, stress is laid on the planting of poplar,

eucalypt, willow, *ailanthus* and other quick growing trees. Bamboo, a highly useful building material that grows very fast, is now being widely planted.

The work is being done mainly by the farm co-ops. The Ministry of Forestry recently called on those co-ops in mountain and hilly regions with enough land and manpower to plant 100-1,000, 5,000 or 10,000-*mou* forests. In co-ops in the plains, each household, according to conditions, aims at planting ten, a hundred or even a thousand trees.

Stress is also laid on proper replacement and protection of timber. The slogan is to plant two, five or ten trees for every one felled so as to ensure a rate of regeneration higher than that of use.

A few years from now, there will be few bare mountains in China and town and country scenery will be very different from what it is now.

Theatre

Chinese Opera Goes to Europe

— A Preview of the Chinese Theatrical and Dance Ensemble —

by HO CHI

China will be represented at the Third International Theatre Festival in Paris this year by one of her well-known theatrical and dance ensembles. It will leave this month. After Paris it will tour Belgium, Switzerland and other West European countries.

MANY in West Europe will recall the first appearance of New China's theatrical art: this was the Chinese dramatic company which performed at the 1955 Paris Festival with phenomenal success. This was repeated on its later tour in Belgium, the Netherlands, Czechoslovakia, Switzerland, Italy, England, Yugoslavia and Hungary. Everywhere it went it won golden opinions and popularity. Its repertoire included *Pai Sheh Chuan* (*The White Snake*), *Nao Tien Kung* (*Trouble in Heaven*), *San Cha Kou* (*Where Three Roads Meet*) and *Chiu Chiang* (*Autumn River*). Its performances were frontpage news in the press, whatever their politics. Periodicals and pictorials too carried many articles on Peking opera. The weekly *France Observateur* wrote that the Chinese classical drama was characterized by its genuine realism. The Belgian *Drapeau Rouge* said that the way a superb technique was used to present the history and life of the Chinese people to the West was something tremendous. The plays, commented the Dutch *De Volkskrant*, conjured up a wonderful, highly poetic world in which the imagination had full play, an exotic world full of ancient culture, yet at the same time

living and full of vitality. Professor Sven Moller Kristensen of Denmark said that Peking opera was reality reshaped by imaginative art, in which speech became song, movement became dancing, costumes and make-up became painting and every character became a typical character.

The new ensemble, headed by Wu Han, the historian and Vice-Mayor of Peking, has distinctive features of its own. Most of its more than 80 members come from the Peking Opera Company of Shanghai and the dance and theatrical company of the Central Experimental Opera Theatre of Peking, but it also includes several well-known artists from other theatrical groups. It also has a much larger and more varied repertoire than its predecessor. In addition to Peking opera, it will also present operas in *Kunchu* style, one of the oldest varieties of Chinese drama. Its sixteen Peking and *Kunchu* operas and thirteen dance and orchestral items have all won high praise at home; many have won popular acclaim abroad and prizes at international contests and the World Youth Festivals. Several operas will be performed in their entirety. This will enable Western audiences to get a fuller idea of the genius of Peking and *Kunchu* operas.

Among the Peking operas to be shown this time is *Ssueh Cheng* (*Ssueh City*), awarded a gold medal at the 1957 World Youth Festival; the full-length operas *Feng Huan Chao* (*The Phoenix Returns*) and *Ta Yu Sha Chia* (*The Fisherman's Revenge*).

Stories of Four Operas

The Phoenix Returns (Peking opera), is a story laid in the Ming dynasty (1369-1644). Cheng Pu, a retired Vice-Minister of War, has two daughters. The elder, Hsueh-yen, is stupid and ugly while the younger, Hsueh-ngo, is clever and beautiful. Cheng Pu proposes to marry Hsueh-ngo to Mu Chu-yi, son of his late friend. His wife opposes the match because the girl is the child of a concubine and she wants her own daughter, Hsueh-yen, to marry first.

Cheng Pu invites Mu to his birthday party so that Hsueh-ngo can see him. Prince Chu also comes to the party, sees the beautiful Hsueh-ngo and determines to marry her. Cheng Pu extols the beauty of his daughter to Mu and proposes the marriage. Mu accepts and is invited to stay the night at the house.

Hearing how handsome Mu is, the ugly daughter Hsueh-yen sneaks into his study at dead of night. Mu is alarmed, thinks Cheng Pu has fooled him, and leaves in indignation.

When Cheng Pu goes away to take up a new appointment, Prince Chu takes advantage of his absence to come to his house to take Hsueh-ngo away in the name of Mu. Cheng Pu's wife, however, substitutes Hsueh-yen for Hsueh-ngo. When Prince Chu discovers the trick, he's already married.

Mu meanwhile meets Cheng Pu on his way home and is recommended for a commission. He is later promoted to the rank of general. Hsueh-ngo, a refugee from the war, comes to headquarters seeking her father. Mu's army comrade and commanding officer act as match-makers between Hsueh-ngo and Mu. Mu is reluctant to wed the girl for he cannot forget the episode in Cheng

Pu's house, but he finally consents. He is overjoyed when he takes the veil from the bride's face to discover she is not the same girl who accosted him in the studio.

Ssuechow City (Peking opera), is the story of a water goddess who lives in the water palace of Ssuechow City. She falls in love with a mortal scholar. The celestial Jade Emperor, however, opposes the marriage and sends Erh Lang, his general, to chastise her. The goddess defies him and his troops and defeats him in a desperate battle.

The Alarm (*Kunchu* opera). The Emperor Hsuan Tsung of the Tang dynasty (618-907) is taking a walk in the cool of an autumn day with his beloved concubine Yang Kuei-fei. They are enjoying the beautiful scenery of the imperial park; wine and music combine to mellow his mood. His cup of happiness seems to be full when news comes that An Lu-shan has started a revolt, Tungkuan has fallen and the capital is in imminent danger.

Death at the Post Station (*Kunchu* opera). Fleeing to Szechuan as a refuge from the rebels, the Emperor Hsuan Tsung and his favourite reach Mawei post station. Here the imperial troops refuse to march further. The Prime Minister Yang Kuo-chung is attacked as the cause of An Lu-shan's rebellion. He is killed by angry guards who then demand that Yang Kuei-fei should commit suicide for fear that she, being the Prime Minister's younger sister, may some day seek revenge.

The Emperor does all he can to save his beloved, but in vain. Knowing how critical the situation is and that further delay may involve the Emperor in disaster, she begs him to let her hang herself on a pear tree. The mist hangs heavy, the west wind blows as the broken-hearted ruler resumes his journey to Szechuan alone.

The excerpts from the opera *Erh Chin Kung* (*Second Audience*) will introduce various styles of singing in Peking opera.

The programme to be presented by the ensemble also includes: *Hsiao Fang Niu* (*The Cowherd and the Village Girl*), *Tao Hsien Tsao* (*Stealing the Elixir-Herb*), *Shih Yu Cho* (*A Jade Bracelet*), *Kuei Fei Tsui Chiu* (*The Drunken Beauty*), *Pa Hsien Kuo Hai* (*Eight Immortals Crossing the Sea*), *Nao Tien Kung* (*Trouble in Heaven*), *San Cha Kou* (*Where Three Roads Meet*), *Yentang Shan* (*In Yentang Mountain*) and *Chiu Chiang* (*Autumn River*).

Kunchu Opera

Kunchu (opera of Kunshan) originated in Kunshan, Kiangsu, between 1522 and 1572. It spread throughout China and influenced practically every other variety of drama in the process. As the "mother of Chinese opera," it has given inspiration to all other local operas, Peking opera included. So it is impossible to talk about the traditions of Chinese drama without mentioning *Kunchu*.

Kunchu opera has a rich repertoire. More than 2,000 *Kunchu* operas were produced in the periods of the Chin (1115-1234 A.D.), Yuan (1280-1368), Ming (1369-1644) and Ching (Manchu 1644-1911) dynasties. They have a wide range of theme. The best have skilfully constructed plots, excellent characterization, and the language is unusually fresh and lively. Many of the traditional operas now

staged in various local styles of opera are either derived or adapted from *Kunchu*. The famous acrobatic play *In Yentang Mountain*, for instance, is indebted to *Kunchu* for its choreography; much of its musical score also has its origins in *Kunchu*.

Kunchu music is melodious; it is also dramatic, designed to build up atmosphere in an opera, to intensify dramatic effect and underline the thoughts and feelings of the characters on the stage. More than 1,000 *Kunchu* tunes exist. Most of them originated in folk music.

A *Kunchu* performance is a complete and unique system of dramatic expression. Singing, dancing and gesture combine to form an organic whole, as original and ingenious as it is harmonious. Each gesture or movement carries out the meaning of the song or words spoken and fits in with the rhythm of the music. There is much in its unique technique of acting that is not to be found in other types of Chinese drama.

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COMING NEXT WEEK

Report on the growth of the economy in the first quarter of 1958. The latest facts and figures on all branches of industry, capital construction, communications and transport and commerce.

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Scene from "The Fisherman's Revenge," a Peking opera
Sketch in Chinese ink and colour by Kuan Liang

The fruit of the efforts of many generations, *Kunchu* opera shows a high level of artistic accomplishment in use of words, in musicianship and complementary dance movements. It is a successful synthesis of classical Chinese literature, drama, music, dancing and decorative art. Together with Peking opera, it is an outstanding example of Chinese classical drama.

Kunchu unfortunately in its latter days suffered such "refinements" at the hands of the literati and officials in old China that it became more and more divorced from the people. The language in some plays became so obscure and difficult to understand that they lost their popular audience. It was only after the founding of New China that, in accordance with the policy of "letting a hundred flowers blossom and weeding through the old to let the new emerge," *Kunchu* specialists and actors were encouraged and helped to revive this great art heritage. Tentative reforms were carried out. In 1956 the *Kunchu* play *Fifteen Strings of Cash* was restaged and aroused immense popular interest throughout the country.

The theatrical ensemble will bring Western audiences two scenes—*The Alarm* and *Death at the Post Station*—from the famous *Kunchu* opera *The Palace of Eternal Youth*, and two other shorter operas *Presentation of a Sword* and *Stopping the Horse at the Pass*.

Dances

Seven of the nine dance items to be performed by the ensemble, *Dragon Dance*, *Peacock Dance*, *Ordos (Mongolian) Folk Dance*, *Lanterns and Flower Drums Dance*, *Friendship Dance*, *Red Silk Dance* and *Lotus Dance*, won prizes at the 1954 and 1957 World Youth Festivals. The first two were particularly liked. They have a spirit that seemed to audiences to epitomize the vitality and happiness of the new China.

The ensemble will also present programmes of music on traditional Chinese instruments such as the flute, pipes and *erh hu*.

Following the Paris festival the whole ensemble will go on a tour of the West European countries. This will, we feel sure, be an appreciated token of friendship from the Chinese people.

Leading Members of the Ensemble

Yu Chen-fei: Famous *Kunchu* actor; plays the role of *hsiao sheng* (young men). Started his theatrical career at the age of six and has been on the stage for half a century since. He is also a fine Peking opera actor, appearing for many years in productions with Mei Lan-fang and Chou Hsin-fang, leading actors in the classical Chinese theatre. He is President of the Shanghai Dramatic Institute. He will appear in *The Phoenix Returns*, *The Alarm*, *Death at the Post Station*, and *Presentation of a Sword*.

Li Yu-ju: Famous for her performances in the role of *hua tan*, coquettish women or vivacious *soubrettes*. A student of Mei Lan-fang, her pleasing singing voice is much admired. She performed in Poland and the Soviet Union in 1955 and 1956. She will appear in *The Jade Bracelet*, *Stopping the Horse at the Pass*, *The Cowherd and the Village Girl* and *The Fisherman's Revenge*.

Yen Hui-chu: A student of Mei Lan-fang, she has been nearly twenty years on the stage. Best known for her portrayals of aristocratic women of ancient China, she has a rare grace on the stage. She is Vice-President of the Shanghai Dramatic Institute. She will appear in *The*

Phoenix Returns, *The Drunken Beauty*, *The Alarm*, *Death at the Post Station*, and *Presentation of a Sword*.

Chang Mei-chuan: Famous in the role of *wu tan*, the military type of women. Acrobatics, stage fencing and juggling with various weapons play a big part in many Peking opera dramatizations of China's folk lore. She is adept at these "military arts" and juggling with swords and spears. In 1954 and 1955 she performed with a Chinese troupe in India, Burma and Indonesia and received a gold medal from the Burmese Prime Minister U Nu.

Among other famous Peking opera actors with the ensemble are Wang Chuan-kuei (noted for his playing of "painted-face" roles which require an exceptionally fine singing voice), Wang Ming-chung (famous for his characterization of the "Monkey King" and well remembered in this role by Paris audiences in 1955), Shen Chin-po and Sun Cheng-yang. The dancers include Chao Ching, Wang Shu-yun, Sun Tai-chang, Sun Tien-lu and Chia Shih-ming. Chang Jui and Meng Ching-yun are performers on traditional Chinese musical instruments.

CHINESE PRESS OPINION

Greeting the Accra Conference

"Africa is awake and it frightens the imperialists. This underlines the significance of the Accra Conference," wrote *Da Gong Bao* in its leader of April 15. "For the first time in history, a conference of African states is being held without the participation of the colonialists."

Such comment was typical of the great interest shown in the Chinese press in the Accra Conference of Independent African States. On April 15, the day the conference opened, all Peking papers carried detailed reports on it and Premier Chou En-lai's message wishing it success.

Da Gong Bao's editorial continued:

"The colonialists have never tired of repeating that Africans are incapable of running their own affairs and so are not qualified for independence. But the facts have shown what nonsense this specious argument is. . . . With the gaining of independence in eight African countries, the whole political picture of the continent has radically changed."

The colonialists would not quit Africa voluntarily, warned *Da Gong Bao*; having lost Asia, they are putting up a bitter fight to retain their hold on Africa, as is shown by the dirty war the French are waging in Algeria and British suppression of the people of Kenya.

"At the same time," the paper pointed out, "the United States is taking advantage of the greatly weakened position of the British and French colonialists to get into Africa. Under cover of 'economic aid,' it is crowding Britain and France out. . . . It is also scheming under the guise of 'mediation' to interfere in the internal affairs of the African states in a bid to grab Africa's rich natural resources and prevent the African peoples from winning real independence."

"The victory of the Egyptians against Anglo-French aggression," the paper concluded, "was a great encouragement to all the African peoples. The courageous struggle they are now waging is shaking the very foundations of colonialist rule there."

Indonesian People's Victory

The recovery of Padang by Indonesian Government forces was hailed by *Renmin*

Ribao's commentator on April 19 as "encouraging news to all who love peace and freedom. This is more than a military victory; it is a victory of the Indonesian people over the separatist plots of foreign and domestic reactionary forces and

for defence of the country's independence and unity."

Predicting that the days of the Sumatran rebels are numbered, the commentator stated: "The root cause for the speedy victory of the Indonesian Government forces lies in the whole-hearted support of the Indonesian people. Contrary to imperialist prophecies, the people are united as never before in active support to the government forces. This is particularly so in Sumatra where they are enthusiastically welcomed and supported by the local people wherever they go. The rebels are badly split, deserted and demoralized. Their defeat has long been a foregone conclusion."

The same commentator on April 16 condemned the raiding of Indonesia's Makassar air base by a U.S.-made B-25 bomber as "another criminal act of U.S. intervention in Indonesia's domestic affairs."

"Seeing that the rebels are faced with complete defeat, their wire pullers can no longer hide their uneasiness. They are now resorting to overt intervention to create tension and complications in the hope that this will intimidate the Indonesian Government and people and

delay the operations of government troops."

Da Gong Bao in a commentary on the same day, linked the air raid with fresh military moves in the south Philippines and recent attacks emanating from the United States and Britain against Indonesia's reported purchase of arms from the socialist countries. "All this indicates that the United States and SEATO are preparing to interfere even more brazenly in Indonesia's internal affairs."

An Unsatisfactory Reply

The United States and other countries of the United Nations Command are duty bound to withdraw their forces from Korea. Their request for clarification on the question of free elections made in a note to the Chinese and Korean Governments on April 9 will not distract public attention from this central issue. This is the keynote of *Renmin Ribao's* commentary on April 13.

In a forthright exposure of the U.N. Command move, the commentary said: "A mere 'welcome' to the peace initiative of the Chinese People's Volunteers to withdraw from Korea will get nowhere. Nor will empty talk about 'free elections.' The world is waiting for an answer from the U.S. Government: will it withdraw its troops from Korea, yes or no, and if yes, when?"

"The governments of other countries still having forces in Korea," the commentary pointed out, "should pull out their own troops right away. They should advise the U.S. Government to

THE PASSING SHOW

Come Clean Now!

Wall Street and Washington continue their tireless search for new boons for mankind. Two Wall Street apologists, Kelso and Adler, have co-operated to produce a "Capitalist Manifesto." The economic ills of capitalism, they declare, come from the combination of a "capitalist" system of production with a "labouristic" system of distribution. They call for a capitalist revolution which will make every man a capitalist owning gilt-edged securities and a clean capitalist United States will blossom forth. But this is not all. Mr. Dulles, not to be outdone, announces that further nuclear tests will be carried out to provide a "clean" hydrogen bomb able to wipe out whole cities without unnecessarily polluting the atmosphere.

Downpayment on Eternity

Admiral Stump, C-in-C of the United States Pacific forces, has told Congress that the U.S. must "not even consider" returning Okinawa to Japan. "We have a \$1,000,000,000 investment there in military buildings, installations and arms," he said. "We have Okinawa for one reason and that is for our own defence."

Okinawa, by the way, is 6,000 miles from California, but it looks like there's no getting rid of these chaps once they start to invest.



initiate steps for the immediate withdrawal of its troops. Only in this way can they show their own and other peace-loving peoples that they are sincere about peace."

"Nearly five years have passed," the commentary went on, "since the signing of the Korean armistice. During this time, both sides have clarified their stands on the issue of peaceful unification of Korea. It won't help matters to repeat what has already been said. To break the deadlock, the C.P.V. decided to withdraw completely from Korea. They are now withdrawing in groups. If the United States is at all sensitive to the desires of the Korean people for unification and of the Asian peoples for a relaxation of tension, it should follow suit."

Trafalgar and the "Golden Rule"

Renmin Ribao last week carried extensive reports on the growing movement of people in the West against nuclear weapons. First-hand accounts were given of the Aldermaston protest march and the ten-thousand-strong Trafalgar Square rally in Britain.

"Among the British people there has been for a long time very great dissatisfaction with the nuclear war policy of the Tory government," noted a commentator in *Renmin Ribao* (April 15). "The Soviet lead in unilaterally stopping nuclear weapon tests has given added impetus to their struggle to make their government change its policy."

"If Britain, as one of the three countries possessing nuclear weapons, will follow the example of the Soviet Union and immediately stop tests, it will be a powerful move to stop the present nuclear race. This is both in Britain's interests and in the interests of world peace."

On April 14, *Renmin Ribao* reported the sailing of Albert Bigelow and three other Americans on the peace ship *Golden Rule* to the Marshall Islands to protest against forthcoming U.S. nuclear tests. Describing it as "a moving example of heroism for peace," its commentator said: "This is something more than just four people and a ketch. They represent hundreds of thousands of honest American people."

"The grit shown by Bigelow and his companions will encourage all who love peace to put even bigger efforts into the struggle against Washington's nuclear war policy."

The Fall of Gaillard

Press comments in Peking papers were unanimous in attributing the downfall of the Gaillard cabinet to its policy of war in Algeria and subservience to the United States.

"The bombs that fell at Sakiet two months ago," declared *Da Gong Bao* (April 17), "spelt out the end for the Gaillard government."

Guangming Ribao had this to say: "Gaillard's policy of subservience to the United States proved detrimental to France's national interests. It also brought to a head the conflict between French colonial interests and U.S.-British ambitions. The right-wing French parties, feeling that Gaillard was not giving enough protection to colonialist interests, grew so dissatisfied with him that they were ready to throw him overboard."

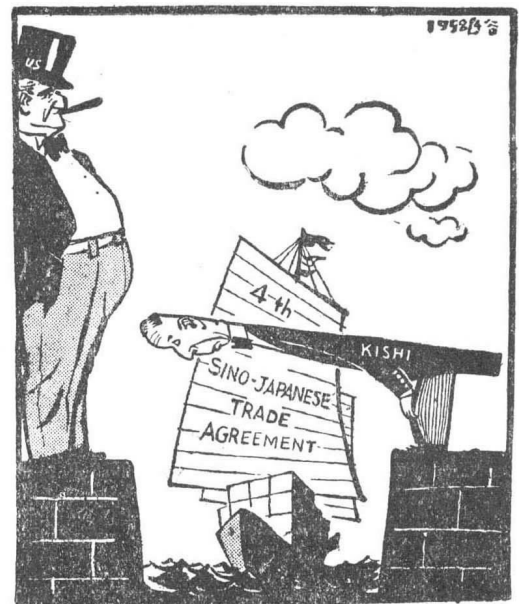
Renmin Ribao's commentator stressed that a stable French Government can never be built on the quicksands of a colonial North Africa policy. Gaillard yielded to U.S. pressure and "mediation" in the hope of obtaining American support vis-a-vis the North African people. But this, the commentator noted, would not really help him because the North African people who hate French colonial rule, have no love for American enslavement either.

Kishi Called to Account

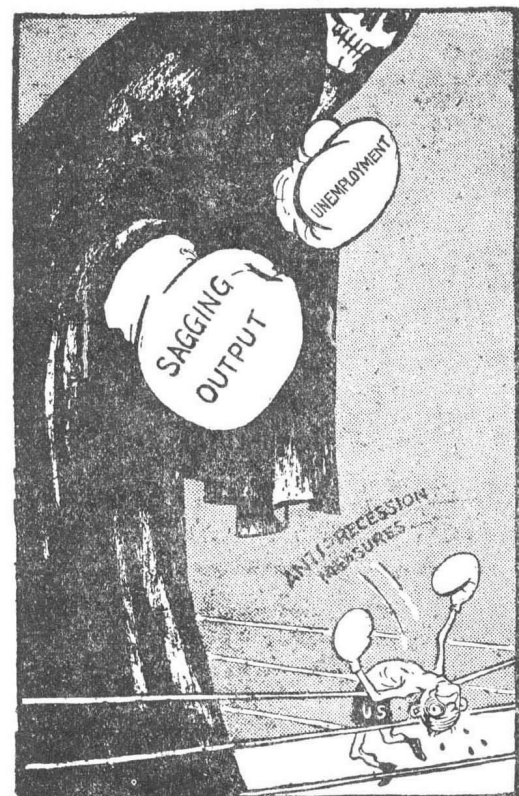
Liu Lien-jen (the Chinese who was abducted to Japan during the war and only just succeeded in returning to China) has demanded compensation from the Kishi government. *Renmin Ribao* in a leader on April 17 strongly supported his claim, reiterating its demand that the Kishi government assume its full responsibility in this case.

"The Chinese people are fully within their rights," the leader declared, "to demand that the Kishi government pay compensation for the enormous losses they suffered during Japan's war of aggression against China and deal in a responsible way with the question of the Chinese abducted to Japan. As the legal government of Japan today, the Kishi government has an inescapable duty to settle all the problems left unsettled by the Japanese militarists following their defeat in their aggressive war against China. Since the Kishi government holds itself responsible for settling Japanese war reparations to the Philippines and Indonesia, what reason does it have to shirk its responsibilities resulting from the aggressive war against China?"

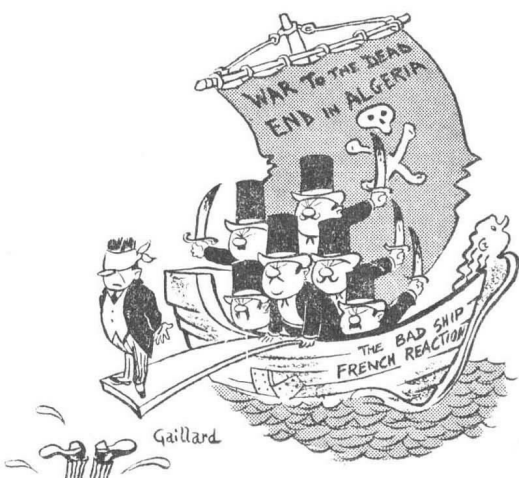
Expressing appreciation for the friendly help given to Liu Lien-jen by the Japanese people and social and progressive organizations, *Renmin Ribao* said, "We are gratified to see that the Japanese people take a completely different stand from the Kishi government." "The Chinese people," it pledged, "have always borne and will continue to have the friendliest sentiments towards the Japanese people,"



A bow to his master Mi Ku in "Gongren Ribao"



The first round Ying Tao in "Renmin Ribao"



Next please!

Jack Chen

CHINA AND THE WORLD

Kishi Blocks Sino-Japanese Trade

The fourth Sino-Japanese trade agreement, signed on March 5 between the China Committee for the Promotion of International Trade and three Japanese trade organizations, is being blocked in Japan. In a statement that is tantamount to a refusal to guarantee the safety of Chinese trade representatives the Japanese Government has, in fact, refused to provide the necessary guarantees for its implementation.

On April 9, in an official reply to the Japanese trade organizations, the Kishi government said that it would "support and assist" the agreement only within the framework of "Japanese domestic laws" and "Japan's non-recognition of the (Chinese) Government." What this vague reply really meant was made clear by Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary, Kiichi Aichi, who declared on the same day that his government was not prepared to "recognize" the Chinese Government and hence could not acknowledge the right of the Chinese trade mission to hoist the Chinese national flag in Japan.

On March 5, the day the trade agreement was signed, Kishi, speaking in the House of Councillors already stated that it "was not proper" for the agreement to contain the provision that the trade mission had the right to fly its national flag. Expanding upon this on April 9, in an answer to interpellations in the Diet, he said that damage to the Chinese national flag would be considered merely as damage to private property. Japanese police officials, adroitly fielding this pass, then intimated that in the event the Chinese flag were attacked by "fanatics," the attackers would not be liable to prosecution under provisions of the Japanese Criminal Law on protection of foreign national flags. All this shows that the Kishi government has no intention of ensuring security and working facilities for the permanent Chinese trade mission whose establishment is an integral part of the agreement.

Nan Han-chen, Chairman of the China Committee for the Promotion of International Trade, in a cable to the Japanese

signatories to the agreement on April 13, rejected Kishi's stand and exposed his duplicity. The statements by Kishi and Aichi, he said, amounted to unilateral scrapping of the trade agreement. He stressed that the Kishi government was by no means supporting and assisting the agreement within the framework of "Japanese domestic laws," as it claimed. He asked why it was that the Japanese Government didn't want to apply its own law on foreign national flags to the Chinese flag. The Japanese Government, he pointed out, could very well use the same discriminatory logic to refuse protection for the Chinese trade mission and its personnel. He declared that while China has always adopted a positive attitude towards the agreement and has made the greatest concessions possible during negotiations for it, it would be impossible to carry out the agreement now until the barriers set up by the Japanese Government are cleared away.

China on Nuclear Arms Tests

Premier Chou En-lai on April 13 wrote to Chairman N. S. Khrushchov reaffirming Chinese support for the Soviet decision to discontinue nuclear weapon tests unilaterally. He was replying to an earlier communication from Chairman Khrushchov on the Soviet decision.

Hailing the Soviet decision as "the first step towards ridding mankind of the danger of a destructive atomic war," Premier Chou declared: "The Chinese Government is of the opinion that the United States and Britain, which possess atomic and hydrogen weapons, cannot shake off their obligation before the peoples of the world who thirst for peace, to respond with deeds to the proposal of the Soviet Union, so that a general discontinuation of nuclear weapon tests may become possible; otherwise, they will never be able to escape the just accusation of the peoples of the world and grave responsibility for causing injury to mankind."

Kishi's attitude to the Chinese people, as shown elsewhere in this issue, has always been one of hostility. He has openly expressed opposition to normalization of Sino-Japanese relations on more than one occasion. He was instrumental in obstructing and delaying the signing of the present agreement. But the power-

ful demand of the Japanese people for closer Sino-Japanese relations and the strong desire of Japanese business circles to trade with China has made it increasingly difficult for him to maintain open opposition to the agreement, as Nan Han-chen pointed out in his cable. That is why Kishi is resorting to the game of pretending to support it while actually sabotaging it. Working in collusion with the United States and with the Chiang Kai-shek clique, he has made an issue of the national flag provision in order to undermine the agreement as a whole.

China-Japan Visits

Several Japanese people's delegations are now in China. They include a group of 35 agronomists led by Shinyichi Teroda, a peace delegation from Aichi Prefecture and a delegation from the Japanese Youth League Council. The Matsuyama Ballet Troupe which was the talk of the town recently in Chungking and Wuhan, is now performing in Shanghai.

In Japan, a group of Chinese jurists touring the major cities are meeting their colleagues at the bar and in the universities. A Chinese song and dance troupe is winning applause from Japanese art lovers. It will take part in the current Osaka International Festival of Music and Dancing.

TRADE NEWS

The 1958 Sino-Czechoslovak trade protocol signed in Peking on April 16 provides for a greatly increased volume of trade compared with last year. Chinese mineral products, chemicals, animal products, silks, foodstuffs, tea and tobacco will be exchanged for Czechoslovak installations for power stations and nitrogenous fertilizer plants, tractors, Diesel engines, water pumps, electric generators, various kinds of vehicles and machine-tools.

* * *

Two and a half million pounds sterling worth of goods were transacted on the first day of the Canton Export Commodities Fair which opened on April 15. Seven hundred guests from Britain, Japan and a dozen other countries took part in the opening ceremony.

* * *

The Chinese Commodities Exhibition in Colombo closed on April 14 after a month's showing. The three hundred thousand Ceylonese who saw the exhibition included many visitors from other cities and fishing ports, peasants from rural districts and jungle areas.

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An Austrian Technical Delegation headed by M. Claudius Walter arrived

in Peking on April 17 as guest of the China Committee for the Promotion of International Trade.

CULTURAL NEWS

Pianist Wins Second Prize. Chinese pianist Liu Shih-kun won the second prize in the Tchaikovsky International Piano Contest which ended in Moscow on April 14. He received high praise for his rendering of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 and Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 1. Thirty-five pianists from 13 countries took part in the contest.

The 18-year-old Chinese musician has played the piano for fourteen years. He was third prize winner at the Liszt International Competition in Budapest in 1956.

* * *

Soprano Kuo Shu-chen, student at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory of Music, recently made a successful appearance at the Moscow Musical Theatre as Tatyana, heroine of the opera *Eugene Onegin*.

* * *

The Chinese Acrobatic Troupe touring Ghana is scheduled to give six performances in Accra during the Conference of

Independent African States. A special performance was given on April 16 for the heads of delegations to the conference.

* * *

"Fifteen Strings of Cash," a noted Chinese *Kunchu* opera has been translated into German by the writer Gunther Weisenborn, who visited China in 1956. The opera will be staged soon in West Germany.

Chinese literary classics such as *The Dream of the Red Chamber*, *Water Margin*, *Tale of the Three Kingdoms*, and *Romance of the West Chamber* have already been translated into German. A new edition of *Water Margin* was recently published in the German Democratic Republic.

IN BRIEF

Chinese Minister to the Yemen Chen Chia-kang, concurrently Ambassador to the United Arab Republic, arrived in Tai'zz to present credentials to Imam Ahmad. He was accompanied by officials of the Chinese Embassy in Cairo and Chinese medical and technical experts.

* * *

Mr. Gopalaswami Parthasarathi has been appointed Indian Ambassador to China.

* * *

Mr. William Gopallawa has been appointed Ceylonese Ambassador to China.

SPORTS

The visiting Hungarian Men's Table-tennis Team lost 2:5 to both the Peking and Peking-Canton Combined Teams. In these two matches, Wang Chuan-yao, the 1957 Chinese Men's Singles Champion, twice defeated the current European Champion Zoltan Berczik by 2:1. In another friendly match, Wang also beat Berczik by the same score.

The Hungarian Women's Team defeated the Peking Team by 3:1. The Chinese player Chiu Chung-hui, however, won a hard-fought 2:0 victory over Eva Koczian, current European Women's Champion.

* * *

A Burmese Sports Mission led by U Zaw Weik, legal adviser to the Burmese National Athletic Council, is now visiting China as guest of the Chinese Physical Culture and Sports Commission.

Document

CHINESE STATEMENT ON SINO-AMERICAN TALKS

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China issued a statement on April 12 making public the facts behind the prolonged suspension of the Sino-American ambassadorial talks in Geneva. The text of the statement follows.

It is four months since the 73rd meeting of the Sino-American ambassadorial talks held on December 12, 1957. During this period, in spite of repeated prodding by the Chinese side, the United States has used its customary Panmunjom tactics to drag on, so that the Sino-American ambassadorial talks have been suspended for a long time. This state of affairs has caused dissatisfaction among the people of our country and concern among the peace-loving people of the world. To set forth the truth, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has decided to make public the facts behind the prolonged suspension of the Sino-American ambassadorial talks.

(1) At the 73rd meeting of the Sino-American ambassadorial talks, Ambassador U. A. Johnson, representative of the American side, informed our representative, Ambassador Wang Ping-nan, that he had been transferred to a new post and would henceforth be unable to participate in the talks, and that the U.S. Government had designated his assistant Mr. Edwin W. Martin as the U.S. representative.

Ambassador Wang Ping-nan pointed out at the time that, as the Sino-American ambassadorial talks were being held as a result of consultations between China and the United States, no alteration must be made by either party at will,

and that designation by the U.S. Government of Mr. Martin, who is not of the rank of ambassador, as representative was evidently inconsistent with the agreed arrangement between China and the United States.

Thus, no date was fixed or published for the next meeting.

(2) In his letter to Ambassador Johnson dated January 14, 1958, Ambassador Wang Ping-nan pointed out that the American side had long been preventing progress in the talks by various means, and that now, in attempting to relegate the talks to a lower level, it was trying to create the false impression that the Sino-American talks continue, while actually it had no intention to settle any problem. Ambassador Wang was authorized to state that the Chinese Government could not agree to a unilateral alteration by the U.S. Government of the result of consultations between the Chinese and the American sides, and that if the U.S. Government has still any intention to carry on the Sino-American ambassadorial talks, it should designate as soon as possible a representative of the rank of ambassador.

After a delay of nearly two months, Mr. Martin, on behalf of Ambassador Johnson, wrote to Ambassador Wang Ping-nan in reply on March 12, 1958. In his letter, Mr. Martin repeated statements made by Ambassador Johnson at the 73rd meeting, and indicated that the U.S. Government would continue to postpone the designation of a representative of ambassadorial rank. Moreover, Mr. Martin attempted to lay the blame on our side for the past failure of the Sino-American ambassadorial talks to fulfil the hopes placed in them.

(3) Mr. Martin's reply on behalf of the U.S. Government was disappointing. Ambassador Wang Ping-nan's assistant, Mr. Lai Ya-li, was therefore instructed to reply on March 26, 1958 to Mr. Martin that the Chinese Government cannot agree to a unilateral change of the level of the Sino-American ambassadorial talks, nor can it agree to suspending the talks for long and reducing them to an empty name on the pretext of administrative reasons; and that if the U.S. Government still has any intention of continuing the Sino-American ambassadorial talks, it should not delay further the designation of a representative of the rank of ambassador.

(4) It can be seen clearly from the above correspondence that, while the Chinese side has abided by the agreement and taken a just attitude, the United States has done everything to drag out the talks and go back on its promise in violation of agreement. In the face of the world's strong demand for

relaxation of international tension, the United States dares not openly break up the Sino-American talks. On the other hand, it is afraid that such relaxation will further discomfit its cold-war policy. That is why it has prevented any progress in the talks and, moreover, tried to incapacitate the talks. Here lies the root cause why, for the past four months, the United States has been playing fraudulent tricks to stall the Sino-American talks.

(5) We now make public the letters from Ambassador Wang Ping-nan to Ambassador Johnson dated January 14, 1958, from Mr. Martin to Ambassador Wang Ping-nan dated March 12, 1958, and from Mr. Lai Ya-li to Mr. Martin dated March 26, 1958.

(The annexed letters, referred to in the statement, were published in full in "Hsinhua News Agency Release," April 13, 1958. — Editor.)

WHAT'S ON IN PEKING

—Highlights of Current Entertainment, Exhibitions, etc.—

Programmes are subject to change. Where times are not listed consult theatre or daily press.

PEKING OPERA

▼ **THE WIFE-SNATCHER** A powerful official who abducts other men's wives is given his deserts by Pao Cheng, a just and upright prime minister of the Sung dynasty. A play by famous Yuan dynasty playwright Kuan Han-ching.

April 23 at Changan Theatre

▲ **THE FEAST OF THE FIVE HEROES** Another of Kuan Han-ching's plays. It tells how a mother, reduced to slavery as a landlord's servant, is reunited with her long-lost son who has become a famous general.

April 24 at People's Theatre

PINGCHU OPERA

▼ **LIU CHIEH-MEI** A new pingchu version of the true story, now known and discussed throughout China, of a former poor peasant who wanted to take the capitalist road but later came to realize that it was the wrong one. Produced by the China Pingchu Opera Company.

April 26 & 27 at Ta Chung Theatre

THEATRE

▼ **THE RED STORM** A new play about the great "February 7" railway workers' strike in 1923. Written collectively by a group of playwrights of the China Youth Art Theatre. Directed by Chin Shan and produced by the China Youth Art Theatre.

April 22-25 at China Youth Art Theatre

▼ **FRIENDS AND FOES** A new play written by Yueh Yeh on the theme of Sino-Soviet friendship. Produced by the Central Experimental Drama Theatre.

April 26-28 at Peking Workers' Club

▼ **THE TEA-SHOP** By Lao Sheh. First staging of a new play by this well-known playwright. The atmosphere of the old society subtly reflected. Produced by the Peking People's Art Theatre.

April 27 & 28 at Capital Theatre

MODERN OPERA

▼ **LA TRAVIATA** Verdi's famous opera produced in Chinese by the Central Experimental Opera Theatre.

April 26 & 28 at Tienchiao Theatre

PUPPET THEATRE

* **MISTRESS CLEVER**, the story of a beautiful fairy who marries a poor wood-utter. With choral accompaniment.

* **THE LITTLE COTTAGE ON THE HILL**, story in verse for children by Soviet writer S. Y. Marshak.

* **LITTLE SHEPHERD**, the story of a village lass who meets a shepherd and what transpires.

* **PIGSY**, the immortal character from *Pilgrimage to the West* and his comic adventures.

* **CHAMELEON**, a short story by Chekhov.

Some of these plays will be on the programme daily from April 22-28 at the Tungszu Theatre

MUSIC AND DANCE RECITAL

The Song and Dance Ensemble of the Central Experimental Opera Theatre Presents:

A programme of Chinese and Western orchestral music and Chinese folk dances.

April 27 matinee at Tienchiao Theatre

FILMS

▼ **SECRET WATCH IN CANTON**, tells why Kuomintang secret agents find the going tough in People's China. Produced by the Shanghai Hai Yen Film Studio.

April 22-27 Ta Hua, Children's Cinema, Chiao Tao Kou, Soviet Exhibition Centre Cinema, Peking Theatre, Kwangho Theatre, Tungszu Workers' Club

April 22-25 Sheng Li, Hsin Chung Kuo, Peking Workers' Club

▼ **THE LOVE OF ANTON** How young Anton, a factory worker, finally finds his true love. A coloured Soviet feature film dubbed in Chinese.

April 24-27 Ta Hua, Children's Cinema, Chiao Tao Kou, Hsin Chieh Kou, Peking Theatre

▼ **THE COUNTERFEIT COIN** A Greek feature film dubbed in Chinese. As it passes from hand to hand, a counterfeit coin brings us dramatically into the lives of a beggar, a prostitute, a worker's widow and her little daughter, a miserly rich man, and a young painter and his wife.

April 24-28 Chung Yang, Kwangan Men, Peking Workers' Club

▼ **UNDER ONE SKY** A new Soviet wide-screen documentary in colour recording the 1957 World Youth Festival held in Moscow.

April 22-28 Capital Cinema

RECITALS

Chinese Poems * Fables * Excerpts from Novels

By the Peking Workers' Group
April 25 at the Cultural Club of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association

EXHIBITIONS

▼ **NATIONAL LIGHT INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS EXHIBITION** Open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Soviet Exhibition

Centre till May 10. Some of the products are on sale at the exhibition.

▼ **TRADITIONAL CHINESE LANDSCAPE PAINTING EXHIBITION** Paintings by well-known contemporary Chinese artists. Sponsored by the Peking Traditional Chinese Painting Research Society. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Peihai Park.

▼ **EXHIBITION OF WOODCUTS BY A. KRAVCHENKO** Over a hundred original prints by a famous Soviet woodcut artist. Opening date: April 22.

At the Gallery of the Artists' Union in Shuai Fu Yuan, off Wang Fu Ching St.

ACROBATICS

▼ **JOINT PROGRAMME** of conjuring, juggling, and acrobatics presented by the China Acrobatic Troupe, and Chinese music performed by the Central Radio Folk Instruments Orchestra, gold medal-winner at the 1957 World Youth Festival.

April 25 & 27 at Chung Ho Theatre
April 26 at Yuan En Szu Theatre

▼ **THE CHUNGKING ACROBATIC TROUPE** — which made successful European tours in 1954 and 1955.

April 22 & 23 Yuan En Szu Theatre
April 27 & 28 People's Theatre

OPEN-AIR ENTERTAINMENTS

Spend a Pleasant Weekend. Come to an evening of popular entertainments at the Tao Jan Ting Park on Saturday night (April 26).

Take your pick of the following:

*Open-air Dancing to band music
*Shadow Theatre performances
*Pingchu Opera
*Chinese Folk Music
*Full-length Feature Film
*And a variety of other performances of Chu Yi, Dramatic Recitals, etc.

WHAT'S ON IN THE PARKS

PEIHAI PARK

***FISHING** under the willows — bring your own fishing tackle or rent it from the Park

***BOATING** on the lakes

***EXHIBITIONS** — of handicraft products including lovely ivory carvings, embroideries, woven bamboo and straw objects, etc.

— of portrait paintings by Ming and Ching dynasty masters

***DINE** on dishes prepared by the men who once cooked for the former Imperial Court

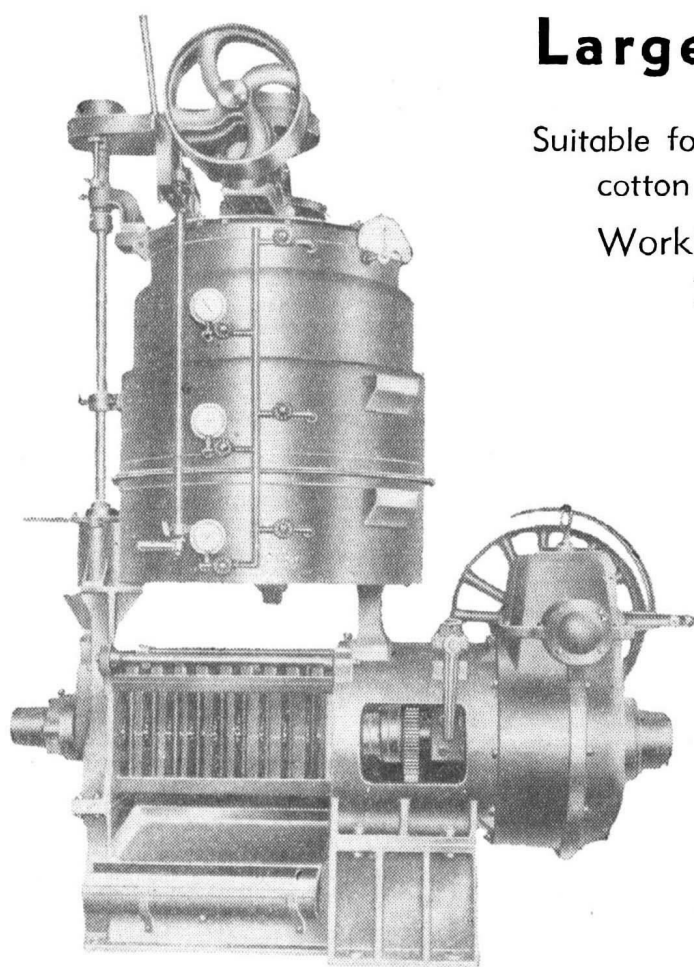
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Daily showings: 1:30 p.m. 3:00 4:30 6:30
See Also: Coloured scientific short *Eclipses of the Sun and the Moon*.
Daily showings: 12:15 3:00 6:00

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Output: 3,500 kilos/24 hours.

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