

PEKING

May 6, 1958

10

REVIEW

Upsurge of Socialist Construction

An over-all picture of China's big leap forward and ways to consolidate the gains and push ahead (p. 6).

Regional Autonomy for National Minorities

Why China has adopted regional autonomy as the solution for the national minority question. Up-to-date material about the minority nationalities and their autonomous regions (p. 8).

New Stage in People's Viet-nam

A first-hand report on economic recovery in Democratic Viet-nam and the beginning of a new era of planned economic development (p. 12).

EMANCIPATING THE MIND

MUSEUM, THEATRE, WHAT'S ON IN PEKING
AND OTHER FEATURES

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報

FROM YENAN TO PEKING

by Liao Kai-lung

A well-documented account of the Chinese people's heroic struggle for freedom. It begins in 1945 in the liberated areas, when the headquarters of the people's power were in the loess caves of remote Yen-an. It recounts the events of the War of Liberation, the establishment of the People's Republic and the achievements of the new China in the early post-liberation years up to 1953. 188 pp.

SON OF THE WORKING CLASS

The autobiography of Wu Yun-to, one of New China's best-loved heroes of labour. Wu was a coal miner. He grew up in the maelstrom of struggle against the Japanese invaders and the reactionaries who were betraying the country. Whether organizing a strike, making rifles with home-made tools, getting explosives for the people's army by rifling enemy time-bombs, or convalescing from his third wound, he never stopped working for the revolution.

The significance of this book is not so much that it is the story of a single hero — though Wu never indulges in heroics — as that it was because there were countless Wu Yun-tos — simple men of heroic mould — that the Chinese people won through to victory.

226 pp.

Illustrated.

Dragon Beard Ditch

By Lao Sheh

This three-act play by Lao Sheh, author of the widely known novel, *Rickshaw Boy*, is about the people who lived around the open sewer called Dragon Beard Ditch which for centuries disfigured southern Peking. The Ditch brought pestilence and death to the neighbourhood until finally, in 1950, it was replaced by an underground drain. The play shows how the lives of the Dragon Beard Ditch people and, consequently, their attitudes to the new society, were affected by the changes after liberation.



Illustrated

98 pp.

Ashma

Ashma is the most popular and colourful ballad of the Shani people of southwest China. Handed down orally from generation to generation, it has only recently been transcribed and translated to become known throughout China. Forced to marry the son of a feudal tyrant whom she detests, *Ashma*, most beautiful of the Shani maidens, is rescued by her brother only to suffer a strange fate. This English translation in verse has been made by Gladys Yang. Bound in blue silk, and illustrated with 9 exquisite woodcuts in colour by Huang Yung-yu, this slim volume will make a delightful gift.

82 pp.

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(BEIJING ZHOUBAO)

A WEEKLY MAGAZINE OF CHINESE
NEWS AND VIEWS

May 6, 1958

Vol. I No. 10

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Emancipating the Mind

PEOPLE are asking: What has made the phenomenal current leap forward in China's national economy possible? Many who want to follow the Chinese scene closely find it difficult to keep pace with the fast-moving tempo of developments in China.

An over-all picture of the concrete achievements in the present leap forward is presented elsewhere in this issue of our magazine. The question we'd like to discuss here is: How is it that the Chinese people in recent months have been able to "work wonders" and do things which were formerly thought impossible?

The current forward leap, it is interesting to note, has been brought about by the nation-wide rectification campaign which has been going on for a whole year. The campaign, as is well known, is designed to improve ways of thinking and ways of doing things. It has led to an emancipation of the mind, to a fuller release of the latent mental and physical strength of the people, and has made it possible to plan boldly and actually accomplish in weeks or months what used to take years or decades to do.

Emancipated thinking is being studiously cultivated in People's China these days. In the current stage of the rectification campaign, special stress has been laid on *wu hsu*, which means paying more attention to abstract things — ideas and theory. People are encouraged to think for themselves, to break away from outmoded traditions and conventions, to thrash out controversial issues in open discussion and debate, to dare to question old ways and to think and act in an original manner.

The drive against conservatism has produced remarkable results. People with conservative ideas always drop behind the march of events. More often than not they look backwards rather than forward. They usually think and act in the conventional way of their fathers, grandfathers and great-grandfathers. They blindly observe long-established traditions and time-honoured precedents in spite of the fact that times have radically changed and that things are totally different from what they once were. In a word, they simply do business as usual and follow the beaten track. Ideologically and spiritually they have fallen victim to the past and dare not try anything new for the simple reason that no such thing ever happened before. Such people can hardly be expected to display originality, initiative or creative energy.

The rectification campaign has gone a long way in combating conservative ideas and freeing people's thinking from such ideological and spiritual ruts. People who have got rid of conservative ideas think and plan not only in the light of the past and how things stand at present, but more and more in anticipation of what things should be like and will be in the future. They have released their thinking from the confines of outmoded traditions and conventions. They are on the alert for new grounds to break and new paths to pursue. That is why new records, both national and international, have been established in many fields in the current forward leap.

China today is a land where people are not content to get along, muddle through, or do business as usual. There is a big forward leap not only in people's ways of doing things, but also in their ways of thinking.

ROUND THE WEEK

May Day in Peking

Peking celebrated its gayest, most colourful and varied May Day. Paraders one-hundred abreast streamed across Tien An Men Square with balloons and doves symbolizing peace flying overhead, to the rhythmic beat of Chinese drums and gongs and the music of bands and singing voices, with banners, pennants and flowers in every conceivable hue and colour. Workers and peasants, students, cadres and intellectuals, handicraftsmen and former capitalists, the people of the national minorities in festive costumes, Muslims in their white skull caps, Buddhist monks, Taoist priests and Catholic nuns in their religious garb, rejoiced as one in China's unprecedented achievements as she builds socialism.

Workers marched with models and pictures of the products they made. Outstanding was the great array of machinery, industrial and electrical equipment now being produced in China for the first time in her history. They also displayed tractors, combines and other farm tools they are now producing to help the peasants in their production drive. The peasants from the farms around Peking brought models along too, of corn, cotton, fruits, pigs, cows and chickens to show the advances on the agricultural front and what they were doing to help industry and the people in the cities.

Throughout the parade there re-appeared, in a multitude of displays, 12 Chinese characters that proclaim the general line of building socialism in China: "to summon revolutionary drive, battle for more advantageous positions and to build more, faster, better and more economically."

Conspicuous in the contingents of factory workers were the numerous cultural troupes of their own—bands and orchestras, Peking opera and dance groups, which not only added beauty to the parade, but demonstrated tangibly the rapid development of cultural activities among the workers in the factories. They performed and played to appreciative crowds as they marched into the square.

Among the beautifully designed placards, carried in the parade, a slogan not seen in former years recurred frequently—"Catch Up with Britain and Surpass It in the Output of Iron and Steel and Other Major Industrial Products in 15 Years." A new song, which has become a hit tune with workers and students—*Catch Up with Britain*—was heard.

Yes, this was a striking note, the voice of the Chinese workers expressing what they are determined to do in three Five-Year Plans—or less. The May Day newspapers published the latest news from the coal industry: by its present performance it would catch up with Britain in coal production by *next year*, instead of by 1972. The dragon of the East, kept in chains for decades but now free on its own feet, was fast making up for lost time and competing peacefully with the British lion.

A special feature of this year's parade, expressed in the most imaginative forms, was the vivid dramatization of the socialist revolution on the political and ideological fronts that is going on in China. The line of demarcation between manual and brain workers was less marked than ever. In the parade you could see both students and cadres who now work with their hands too, in the countryside and on the Ming Tombs Reservoir near Peking that is being built by voluntary labour, and workers who are becoming scientists in their own rights and proficient in cultural and artistic expression. Throughout the parade the marchers, floats and slogans emphasized the close links between working and learning, the unity of theory and practice, the endeavour to be both socialist-minded and professionally expert, the desire of the intellectuals to shed their bourgeois habits and attitudes of the past, not only to serve and be at one with the workers and peasants but to become workers themselves.

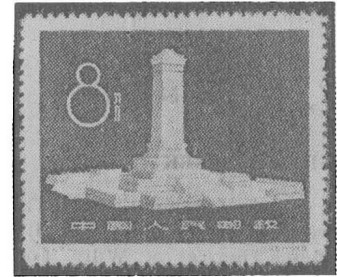
The contingents of cultural workers were very impressive. With floats depicting scenes from current Chinese operas, films and plays, with paintings in traditional Chinese techniques and oil paintings in Western style, with pictures of China's traditional arts and crafts, the cultural workers rededicated themselves to the policy of "let a hundred flowers blossom and a hundred schools of thought contend" and to art and culture serving the workers, peasants and soldiers and helping the flowering of socialism.

The mood of the parade was keyed by Peng Chen, Mayor of Peking, when he declared:

In the past twelve months the people of China achieved great victories in the socialist revolution carried out on the political and ideological fronts under the leadership of the Communist Party's Central Committee and Chairman Mao, and in the campaign against the bourgeois rightists. The whole nation took part in the campaign to free ourselves ideologically from set ways of thinking and to

take a big leap forward in industry, agriculture and other fields of socialist endeavour.

The celebrations began with the unveiling of the Monument to the People's Heroes. All eyes turned to the cenotaph. The red silk covering was slowly drawn aside to reveal the bold Chinese characters "The People's Heroes Are Immortal!" written in the inimitable calligraphy of Chairman Mao Tse-tung. One and all stood, head lowered, in silent tribute to the men and women who had laid down their lives for the cause of the people since 1840.



Throughout the parade the solidarity of the Chinese people with the workers of the world and with all people fighting for peace, national independence, and freedom was voiced again and again.

In the evening the people of Peking poured out into the streets, sang and danced, watched the gala fireworks display and made merry into the small hours of the morning. There was more to celebrate than ever before.

Election Glimpses

Elections are proceeding in different parts of China (see "China Goes to the Polls," *Peking Review*, No. 8) by stages. Out of 2,200 counties and cities nearly 1,000 have already chosen their deputies to the people's congresses.

This is the third time these elections at the primary levels are being held. The first was in 1954, the second in 1956. The mood of this year's elections has been set by the successes of the First Five-Year Plan and the remarkable beginning of the Second Five-Year Plan. Here are some glimpses of this year's elections.

* * *

Liang Ken is the choice of the voters of Hsiaomeichieh in Canton. A pedicab driver, Liang is very active in civic affairs in his spare time and is the chairman of the Neighbourhood Committee in his locality. He is far from well-off, but he has done a lot for his community. When election time came around his public services were remembered. By consensus of opinion Liang Ken was nominated. The work of a pedicab driver may not sound attractive to many in the West, but in China political honours go



Posting the list of voters

Sketch by Shao Yu

to those who serve the public well, regardless of position or profession.

* * *

In Kirin Province, northeast China, the electorate of Liushu Township engaged in heated discussions before the nomination was made. Two candidates were being considered — one named Yang and the other Ma. Yang is slick and smooth, glosses over things and tries to please everybody. He gives the appearance of working for the community but really looks after his own interests. A tricky politician, one would say.

Ma is different. He is clear-cut, people know where he stands, and his record of struggle against the landlords and rich peasants who exploited the poor and against the counter-revolutionaries is well-known. He is selfless.

The election committee got the electorate to debate the respective merits of the two men. In the course of the debate Yang's weaknesses were disclosed while Ma's qualities were upheld. Ma won the nomination.

The case of Liushu Township is no exception. Nominations in China today often follow an airing of views by the electorate on the merits and shortcomings of the candidates, an experience drawn from the current rectification campaign.

* * *

Not only local people are nominated and elected. Intellectuals working on the farms who have shown their worth politically and in the fields have also been chosen to sit at the people's congresses. They have been warmly accepted by the people and integrated into their new localities, the elections show.

* * *

Choosing "socialist housekeepers" is how the people describe this year's election. The watchword is to send the best men and women to the people's con-

gresses, to lead them in the "big leap forward," on the basis of past performance in daily work.

Heilungkiang Wipes Out Illiteracy

Heilungkiang has scored a double victory. Early in the year, Ningan, one of its counties, won national fame by becoming the first county in China to wipe out illiteracy among the younger people. Now the province itself has won similar honours.

News reports from Heilungkiang indicate that about 87 per cent of the younger generation working in government offices, factories, public bodies, etc. in the province have learned to read and write more than 2,000 characters and 81 per cent of the younger peasants have learned some 1,500. Members of the handicraft co-operatives, housewives and other sections of the population in the cities too are doing well, mastering more words than required to pass the literacy qualification tests laid down by the state.

Heilungkiang, in northeast China, has won the battle against "letter-blindness" by determination and sustained effort. Formerly a province weighed down by illiteracy — only 15 per cent of its adults were able to read and write — it has turned the tables on history, on a past which had condemned its people to ignorance and backwardness. The programme to wipe out illiteracy among its younger people has been shortened by nine years.

With their present achievements, the young workers and peasants of Heilungkiang are planning to consolidate what they have learned by launching a campaign to "read a hundred books and write ten thousand characters."

When There's a Will

If you follow the Chinese press closely these days you will often come across

the epithet *tu* (meaning "native") used in connection with solutions to problems cropping up in the field of construction — "native" creation, "native" cement, "native" lorries, "native" experts, "native" this and "native" that. It is used for ideas and devices that come from the people themselves. Where orthodox solutions take months or years these "native" measures often provide immediate answers.

The problem of cement is a clear example. Since liberation China's cement industry has developed by leaps and bounds. In 1957, 6.86 million tons were produced, three times as much as in the peak year before liberation. This year the industry plans to push output up to 8.18 million tons, 19 per cent over last year's figure. Even so, supply is hardly able to keep up with the runaway demand of factory and home construction, water conservancy works and the like all over the country. Ways had to be found to solve this problem. The resourcefulness and earthy wisdom of the people did it.

Honan Province in north China found a way to mix lime with clay and were thus able to produce a good substitute for cement in building water conservancy projects. It takes only three days to set up a factory to produce this cement substitute and the capital needed is just two thousand yuan. Such a factory can produce 2,000 tons annually of "native" cement, as the people call it, with a very low cost of production.

These "native" measures have helped solve many problems arising from the "big leap" in production where the usual ways of doing things were unable to cope with urgent needs. They are stepping stones to normal production, and accelerate the development of industries in the countryside. Though not ends in themselves, this "native" ingenuity is the harbinger of greater things to come.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Commemoration Stamp. A special eight-fen postage stamp to commemorate the unveiling of the Monument to the People's Heroes in Tien An Men Square (see *Peking Review*, No. 9) was issued on May Day. The stamp is rectangular and scarlet in colour giving a panoramic view of the monument.

* * *

Chungking Steel Plant. Southwest China will have its first integrated iron and steel works in Chungking, the upriver port on the Yangtze.

* * *

Poems by Workers. *Shi Kan* (Poetry Monthly) has published one hundred poems written by 46 workers — coal miners, iron smelters, railwaymen, textile workers, etc.

Upsurge of Socialist Construction

Following is the abridged text of the editorial in the Peking "Renmin Ribao" of April 27, 1958. In the Chinese original it was entitled "Let's Work Thoroughly, Exactly and with Our Feet on the Ground."

A HIGH tide of socialist construction has swept over the country in the past few months, on the basis of the nation-wide rectification campaign. The people of our country have been cutting through the waves like a ship in full sail, summoning their revolutionary drive, battling for more advantageous positions, and building socialism on the principle of doing more, faster, better and more economically. In all regions, trades and departments we see the stirring scene of a great nation-wide leap forward.

Leap in Industry and Agriculture

Agriculture has taken the lead. The high tide of agricultural construction actually started after the autumn harvest last year. The peasants, in the past few months, inspired by the slogan "a tough fight for three years to make a fundamental change in the countryside," have worked miracles: in less than six months, the achievements in water conservancy construction have surpassed what was achieved in the past eight years (in some provinces, such as Honan and Anhwei, the achievements in this field have been greater than those made in all the past centuries), the area of irrigation and water and soil conservation has been vastly expanded and swamps have been transformed into fertile land; networks of irrigation canals criss-cross the plains; bringing water up to the mountains has become quite commonplace. As a result of the campaign to stockpile manure, in the whole country today there is an average of over 10,000 catties of manure for each *mou* of land, or three times as much as in 1956. Much progress has also been made in afforestation and the breeding of livestock. A campaign to improve farm tools is now starting up throughout the countryside. Judging the situation from various aspects, and barring any very serious natural calamities, the grain increase this year will not be a matter of several thousand million catties, but a matter of tens of thousand millions.

The Chinese working class, inspired by the slogan "catch up with Britain in 15 years" and stimulated by the forward leap in agriculture, has scored great successes in the first quarter of the year. Production in the enterprises under the various industrial ministries increased by 26.6 per cent, compared with the corresponding period in 1957; and the output of the local industrial enterprises rose 19.1 per cent. There seems to be no end to technical innovations and good news about new records, and new products keep pouring in steadily. At present, a high tide in the development of local industries is in the offing.

Now that industry is to be established in every county and in every township, local industry is blooming in all parts of the country. It is anticipated that the rate of growth of industrial production in the country this year will be faster than in any other post-liberation year.

With the forward leap in agriculture and industry, cultural, educational and health activities too have made considerable progress. In all parts of the country very many middle schools for peasants are being set up and energetic efforts are being made to open primary schools everywhere and wipe out illiteracy. A health campaign directed mainly against the four evils* is unfolding in the country most vigorously.

Commerce, communications and transport, judicial work, literature and art too are making great headway.

In short, after several months of hard work, truly inspiring achievements have been made on every front. Never before were the Chinese people as energetic and in such good spirits as they are today; never before did they bring their wisdom and intelligence to full play as they are doing now, boldly breaking away from all sorts of obsolete conventions and continuously working new wonders through labour. Why? Because the popular rectification campaign has greatly improved the relations between men and men, because it has further emancipated the minds of people. The socialist revolution of the Chinese people on the political and ideological fronts and the correct handling of the contradictions among the people have caused the social productive forces to grow by leaps and bounds. Events in the last few months have convinced us that socialism in our country truly has a brilliant future, that the draft National Programme for Agricultural Development can definitely be fulfilled ahead of time, that three years of hard work will definitely change the face of the countryside fundamentally and that China will definitely be able to catch up with Britain in 15 years.

Present Task

At present, this is the task confronting us: On the basis of achievements made in the past few months, we must go on working hard and strive to realize fully this year's plan for a great leap forward. If, several months ago, the question was to be bold enough to think of things no one dared think of before, to do things that were considered impossible in the past, to fight against all sorts of conservatism, and to work out advanced plans and set up advanced targets, then the question today is to take concrete steps to put these advanced plans and targets into practice, and to strive to fulfil and overfulfil them.

In the last few months considerable achievements have been made. This means that we have made a good

* Mosquitoes, flies, rats and grain-eating sparrows.

start for the fulfilment of the plan for this year. However, let there be no mistake about it, a good start is only a good start and many difficult jobs remain ahead. In agriculture, the great achievements in water conservancy construction have no precedent. The same is true in the work of stockpiling manure. Generally speaking, we have also done an excellent job in spring ploughing. Yet, we must not think that this year's forward leap in agriculture is materialized before over 400,000 million catties of grain, and over 30 million *tan* of cotton and other oil-bearing crops are actually on hand. As far as industry is concerned, a good job has been done in the first quarter of the year and the technical innovation movement is really encouraging. Yet, still heavier and more difficult tasks await us and still greater exertion has to be made if this year we are to create a new record in the rate of our industrial growth. As far as "turning the country green" is concerned, there is no precedent for the achievements in tree-planting in the spring of the year. But this is only the first step. We cannot say that we have turned the country green unless all the trees planted survive, grow and the leaves of the trees have actually formed green shades.

To materialize the advanced plans and targets, we must, therefore, continue to be as energetic as ever, do our job thoroughly, exactly and with our feet on the ground.

With Feet on the Ground

We Communists should have both a revolutionary manner and a down-to-earth spirit. A revolutionary manner means working with revolutionary drive. Without revolutionary drive it is impossible to think of things our predecessors never dared think of—impossible to do things our predecessors never dared to do. Without down-to-earth spirit, however, with revolutionary drive alone, things will never succeed. A down-to-earth spirit means to get at the truth by getting down to the facts, to have our feet on the ground and to do our job effectively. Without it, drive will turn to blind action and waste, and ideals will turn to Utopia.

Now many parts of the country have paid attention to the actual adoption of effective measures to materialize the plans for their leap forward. In various parts of Honan Province, for instance, all sorts of means are being employed to get a bumper harvest of wheat, sweet potatoes, rice and maize and the fight is on to materialize the leap forward this year and with full confidence that this can be done. The Chienhua Machine-Tools Plant in Shanghai had advanced the slogan: "Automation for machinery and mechanization for manual work." A drive for technical renovation is now well under way. In Kiangsu Province, where more than 6,000 agricultural middle schools run by the people of the locality have been established in the last month, more thoughtful and more thorough measures are being taken to tackle the question of administration, teachers and teaching materials. All these things are gratifying.

To implement the plans and targets for the leap forward it is necessary to adopt a series of technical innovations. In agricultural production, in addition to water conservancy work, stockpiling manure and amelioration of the soil—the three key measures which must be carried through—it is also necessary to

tackle the job of improving farm tools and farming techniques. In industry, great efforts must be made to develop the drive for technical innovations. At present big advances which are being made in all fields of production in China must be built on mass technical innovations. The creativeness of the masses must be brought into full play; their talents and intelligence must be concentrated on technical innovations. Experiences in many areas prove that at present technical innovation is one of the most important links in the materialization of the forward leap and that the wisdom of the masses in this respect is unlimited.

To Reform Outmoded Regulations

In order to implement the plans for the forward leap it is necessary to reform outmoded regulations and systems. Of the many regulations and systems in use, some are reasonable and necessary, but quite a number of them have become outmoded and unreasonable and must be reformed, otherwise the initiative of the masses will be limited. Of course, we must be careful in reforming the technical and operational rules and regulations in production. Changes should not be introduced recklessly where there is no adequate scientific basis and without thorough experimentation, so as to avoid accidents. On the other hand, large numbers of obsolete regulations and systems in the administrative work must be done away with without fear, and replaced by new regulations and systems which are beneficial to the realization of the policy of doing more, faster, better and more economically—and which will help bring the initiative of the masses into full play.

To realize the plan for the forward leap it is also necessary to implement all-round planning and exercise division of labour and co-ordination. The situation today is one in which an all-round leap forward is taking place. Every trade should leap forward, but there must be a central task, some things must be done first, others later. Therefore, there must be an over-all arrangement in all localities so that energies are not diffused and the central task is not neglected. At the same time, the leap forward requires not only co-ordination between agriculture, industry, commerce, communications and transport, culture, education and health services, but also co-ordination between different areas, provinces, special administrative regions, counties, big cities and medium and small cities, between towns and country, so as to bring the initiative of all into full play, so that one's strength can supplement another's weakness, so that all together can make the leap forward. This also requires over-all planning.

All this depends on strengthening leadership, on strengthening political and ideological work, on fully mobilizing the masses. In many places in the country, at present, a mass check-up of agricultural production is taking place.

This mass check-up will effectively rectify those instances where the measures do not keep pace with the plans and those instances where plans have not been backed up with measures. This method of check-up should be adopted everywhere in the country, not only in agriculture, but in industry, culture, education and health services, commerce, communications and transport, to find out where problems exist and devise methods of improvement.

Regional Autonomy for National Minorities

by WANG KE

CHINA is a multi-national state. Over fifty nationalities inhabit the country. The Han people constitute 94 per cent of the population. The peoples of the various national minorities, numbering over 35 million, constitute 6 per cent of the population.

After the victory of the people's democratic revolution, regional autonomy in the areas inhabited by the national minority peoples was introduced to provide self-government for the nationalities and to unite them in the great family of the motherland building socialism. This fundamental policy is embodied in the Constitution of the People's Republic of China. Article 3 of the Constitution declares:

The People's Republic of China is a single multi-national state. All the nationalities are equal. Discrimination against, or oppression of, any nationality, and acts which undermine the unity of the nationalities are prohibited. All the nationalities have freedom to use and foster the growth of their spoken and written languages, and to preserve or reform their own customs or ways. Regional autonomy applies in areas where people of national minorities live in compact communities. National autonomous areas are inalienable parts of the People's Republic of China.

The rights of the national autonomous areas are defined in Articles 67-72 of the Constitution (see p. 9).

Why National Regional Autonomy?

Why has China decided to institute national regional autonomy within a unitary state as a means of solving the national question? This was determined by the historical development of China and the characteristics of the Chinese revolution. China's main features are:

1. For 2,000 years, since the unification under the Chin dynasty (221-207 B.C.), China has been a multi-national state with centralized power. During this long period of history all of the nationalities co-operated economically, engaged in cultural exchange and shared in the creation of the history and culture of their common motherland. Division occurred, but in general the period of division was much shorter than the period of unity. China was united on a broader and firmer basis, particularly during the Yuan, Ming and Ching (Manchu) dynasties (from the latter part of the 13th century to the early years of the 20th century). China's history shows that, despite national oppression imposed from above, unity and mutual help constituted the main feature of relations between the people of the different nationalities. Take the Tibetans, for example. As far back as the 6th and 7th centuries the Tibetans traded with the Han people, began to establish more and more frequent contact with them and assimilated some of their culture. The various nationalities have traditionally exchanged means of production and consumer goods for daily use (iron tools,

salt, cloth, tea, fur and hides). As a result, the economy of all the nationalities has been interdependent, formed a common entity in which isolated existence and development was impossible. The system of centralism that existed for such a long period of Chinese history was built on this economic basis.

2. Historical development created a situation in which one or more nationalities live together with other nationalities in different areas of the country. There is great intermingling. In the country as a whole, the people of each national minority are generally scattered in different areas. Those who live in compact communities in a single area constitute only a fraction of the nationality as a whole. Many minority peoples live together with the Han people. Fairly large numbers of Tibetans live in compact communities in Tibet. However, if the Tibetans who live in Szechuan, Chinghai, Kansu and Yunnan Provinces are taken into account, it is true to say that the Tibetans, like the other minority peoples in China, are dispersed in different areas of the country and do not live in compact communities in a single area.

The Uighurs live in compact communities in Sinkiang, but there are also twelve other nationalities who live in compact communities there. The fact that the various nationalities are intermingled is one of the important conditions for the existence of a great united family of all nationalities in China.

3. The characteristics of the Chinese revolution determined that unity and solidarity is the only way out for all the nationalities. In the past hundred years, as a result of imperialist aggression, China was reduced to the status of a semi-feudal and semi-colonial country. Externally China was oppressed by the imperialist aggressors and internally by feudal forces and bureaucrat-capitalism. In these circumstances the people could defeat their common enemies only by standing together regardless of nationality. Especially during the past three decades and more, deep-rooted fraternal relationships between the people of the different nationalities were formed in the protracted revolutionary struggles led by the Chinese Communist Party. The Communist Party has always stood for national equality, against the rule of big-Han chauvinism which expressed itself in discrimination and oppression of the national minorities, and made their freedom one of its objectives. Far back in the Second Revolutionary Civil War (1927-1936), the Communist Party implemented the policy of national equality in the revolutionary bases and in the areas passed by the Red Army on the route of the Long March, wherever national minorities lived. The people of the national minorities, on their part, gave enthusiastic support to the Communists. Many advanced elements among the national minority peoples joined the revolutionary ranks. During the War

of Resistance to Japanese Aggression and the Liberation War, broader and firmer ties between the Chinese Communist Party and the people of the national minorities developed. All the nationalities rallied round the Party more closely in the common fight against the enemies of the revolution.

The founding of the People's Republic of China freed the entire Chinese people of various nationalities from imperialist domination. The imperialists, however, will not give up until their doomsday. In the past, the Japanese aggressors put up the "Manchukuo" puppet regime and the puppet "Mongolian Autonomous Government." Today the U.S. imperialists are trying to split the unity of China and the solidarity among its various nationalities. Only by strengthening the unity and solidarity of its nationalities can the imperialist designs be foiled.

4. The unity of the country and co-operation among all its people is the common desire of the various nationalities and is the basic guarantee for building socialism in China. For historical reasons, the Han people who are more advanced politically, economically and culturally, have played a leading role in China. The national minorities have not had the same opportunities for development in the past. The areas inhabited by them make up 50 to 60 per cent of China's total area, rich in mineral resources and with enormous potentialities for the development of industry, agriculture and animal husbandry. Just as the Han people must rely on the support of the national minority areas with their rich resources, so the minority peoples need the help of the Han people in manpower, material and technique to develop their economy and culture. Only when all the nationalities are united in the great family of the common motherland, practising mutual help and co-operation, can they hope to grow and prosper.

Genuine Self-Government

Facts prove that the institution of regional autonomy in national minority areas in a unitary state provides the best solution for China's national question.

Up to the present, there are in China three national autonomous regions, 31 autonomous *chou*, 55 autonomous counties and more than 1,000 nationality townships. In addition, a Preparatory Committee for the Tibetan Autonomous Region has been set up. The Ninghsia Hui Autonomous Region is to be inaugurated soon. Over 90 per cent of the national minorities who live in compact communities enjoy national regional autonomy. Preparations are being made for the establishment of additional national autonomous areas.

The advantage of the institution of national regional autonomy is that it enables the national minorities to enjoy genuine self-government. Apart from autonomous regions established in areas where the national minorities live in large numbers, the nationalities can also secure the benefits of autonomous *chou*, autonomous county and nationality townships in other places. This is suited to existing conditions in which one or more national minorities are intermingled with other nationalities. Because all the national minorities exercise the right to administer the local affairs in their areas, the unity of China and the solidarity of all its nationalities has been

strengthened. Their desire and enthusiasm to build socialism jointly has been aroused.

To get rid of their backwardness as quickly as possible, the various nationalities have successively carried out democratic reforms and socialist transformation in most of the national autonomous areas following the implementation of regional autonomy. Today, more than 85 per cent of the people of national minorities have practically completed the socialist transformation of the means of production and done away with the system of exploitation and oppression. They have laid a preliminary economic foundation for building socialism.

Another virtue of national regional autonomy is the fact that the various nationalities are able to develop their economy and culture rapidly because they stand

THE CONSTITUTION OF CHINA ON NATIONAL AUTONOMOUS AREAS

Section V of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, Articles 67-72, defines "The Organs of Self-Government of National Autonomous Areas." These articles of the Constitution follow.

Article 67. The organs of self-government of all autonomous regions, autonomous *chou* and autonomous counties are formed in accordance with the basic principles governing the organization of local organs of state as specified in Section IV of Chapter Two of the Constitution. The form of each organ of self-government may be determined in accordance with the wishes of the majority of the people of the nationality or nationalities enjoying regional autonomy in a given area.

Article 68. In all autonomous regions, autonomous *chou* and autonomous counties where a number of nationalities live together, each nationality is entitled to appropriate representation on the organs of self-government.

Article 69. The organs of self-government of all autonomous regions, autonomous *chou* and autonomous counties exercise the functions and powers of local organs of state as specified in Section IV of Chapter Two of the Constitution.

Article 70. The organs of self-government of all autonomous regions, autonomous *chou* and autonomous counties exercise autonomy within the limits of the authority prescribed by the Constitution and the law.

The organs of self-government of all autonomous regions, autonomous *chou* and autonomous counties administer their own local finances within the limits of the authority prescribed by law.

The organs of self-government of all autonomous regions, autonomous *chou* and autonomous counties organize their local public security forces in accordance with the military system of the state.

The organs of self-government of all autonomous regions, autonomous *chou* and autonomous counties may draw up statutes governing the exercise of autonomy or separate regulations suited to the political, economic and cultural characteristics of the nationality or nationalities in a given area, which statutes and regulations are subject to endorsement by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

Article 71. In performing their duties, organs of self-government of all autonomous regions, autonomous *chou* and autonomous counties employ the spoken and written language or languages commonly used in the locality.

Article 72. The higher organs of state should fully safeguard the right of organs of self-government of all autonomous regions, autonomous *chou* and autonomous counties to exercise autonomy, and should assist the various national minorities in their political, economic and cultural development.

together within a unified country. Today, many modern industrial enterprises have been established in the national minority areas where there was no modern industry of any kind, not even handicraft workshops, before the liberation. Incomplete statistics show that nearly 2,000 industrial enterprises have been established in areas where national minorities live in compact communities, of which 800 are fairly large enterprises. In 1956 the total output value of local industries in autonomous regions and autonomous *chou* throughout the country was more than 1,098 million yuan, representing an increase of 365 per cent since the early days of liberation.

The total value of agricultural and rural subsidiary production in the national minority areas in 1956 was more than 4,166 million yuan, representing an increase of 109 per cent since the early days of liberation. The number of cattle in the stock-breeding areas nearly trebled. In 1956 there were more than 4 million students in the autonomous regions and autonomous *chou*, 356 times more than before the liberation. The government has also helped create written languages for 12 national minorities. As a result of the rapid economic and cultural development the life of the minority people has improved remarkably.

The Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region is a case in point. There was no industry of any kind there in the past. Since the liberation, the construction of several railways, the development of lumbering and the work now going on at the major iron and steel centre at Paotow have acted as a great stimulus to industrial growth. **During the past five years, on the average, three manu-**

facturing and mining enterprises were built every month. The output of Inner Mongolia's industry in 1957 alone equalled that in the entire seven years from 1946 to 1952, accounting for 30 per cent of the total value of industrial and agricultural production in the region. In the 10 years since its establishment in 1947, grain output increased one and a half times, cattle two times, health and medical centres 37 times, the number of students five times. There are now ten universities and colleges where before liberation there was none. The population increased by 200,000 — in contrast to the past when it was dwindling so fast that the reactionary rulers calculated the Mongolian people would be extinguished in 30 years.

The Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region is another example. Before the liberation there were less than 500 workers of the national minorities in this region. In 1957 the number of such workers was 125,000, and will reach 150,000 by the end of this year. Statistics for 1957 showed that compared with 1949, total output value of industry increased 63 times, grain output about 100 per cent, cotton 9 times, the number of university and secondary school students 8.8 times, health and medical centres 8 times and the people's purchasing power nearly trebled.

In China today, not only the nationalities of large population, living in large areas, have made rapid advance, but the once-forgotten small national minorities who had been driven to the desolate mountain areas in the past are also making great headway. All this proves that regional autonomy for national minorities is the correct solution of China's national question.

CHINA'S NATIONAL MINORITIES AND THEIR AUTONOMOUS AREAS

About fifty national minorities live in China. There are ten national minorities with a population of one million and over: Mongolians, Huis, Tibetans, Uighurs, Miaos, Yis, Chuangs, Puyis, Koreans, and Manchurians. The national minorities with a population of less than a million are: Kazakhs, Tungs, Pais, Tais, Kawas, Hanis, Yaos, Lis, Tunghsiangs, Khalkhas, Tus, Lisus, Nahsis, Lahus, Shuis, Chingpos, Chiangs, Kaoshans, Salas, Russians, Sibos, Tadjiks, Uzbeks, Tartars, Paoans, Yukus, Olunchuns, Tawals, Owenkes, Nus, Tulungs, Molaos, Maonans, Kolaos, Tuchias, Shehs, Achangs, Pulangs, Hechehs, and Penglungs.

The Chuangs, the biggest of the national minorities, have a population of 6,960,000. The national minorities with the smallest population, less than 5,000 each, are the Olunchuns, the Tulungs, the Hechehs and the Penglungs.

About eight million of the more than 35 million people of the national minorities do not live in the compact national minority areas and are intermingled with the Han (Chinese) people in the cities, towns and villages. Most of the minority peoples live in the frontier regions. The Mongolians, for instance, live largely in the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region. Among the inhabitants of northeast China and the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region there are also people of Korean, Manchurian, Tawal, Owenke, Olunchun, and Hechek nationalities. In northwest China we find Uighurs,

Huis, Tibetans, Kazakhs, Khalkhas, Tadjiks, Sibos, Uzbeks, Russians, Tartars, Tunghsiangs, Tus, Salas, Yukus, and Paoans. There are also many national minority peoples in southwest China. Among them the following are the largest: Tibetans, Miaos, Yis, Puyis, Tungs, Pais, Tais, Kawas, Hanis, Lisus, Nahsis, Shuis, and Chingpos. Tibet is largely inhabited by Tibetans. In central-south China the Chuangs, Yaos, Lis, and Tuchias live. In east China there are the Shehs and the Kaoshans of Taiwan, a region to be liberated. It should be noted that the population of most of the minority regions also includes people of the Han nationality.

About 30 million people of the national minorities in China, mainly the Chuangs, Uighurs, Huis, Koreans, Miaos, Pais, Puyis, live in regions where the social and economic structure, in the early years of liberation, was the same as, or quite similar to, that in the regions inhabited by the Hans. About one million still lived in the stage of slave society, chiefly the Yis in Liangshan, Szechuan. About 700,000 still lived in the stage of primitive society, more or less, mainly the Kawas, the Lisus, Nus, Tulungs, Chingpos in Yunnan, the Olunchuns in the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region and the Lis in Kwangtung. Since liberation, socialist transformation of the ownership of means of production has been completed in various regions with a population of over 30 million. Democratic reform has been carried out or completed in regions in-

habited by three million people of different nationalities. Democratic reform has not yet been carried out in regions inhabited by two million people because the conditions for such reform are not yet ripe.

Autonomous Units

Over 90 per cent of national minority peoples living in compact communities have set up their own autonomous governments. At present there are in China a total of 89 autonomous administrative units: Among them three are autonomous regions, 31 autonomous *chou*,* and 55 autonomous counties. The Tibetan and Ningsia Hui Autonomous Regions are now in preparation.



Sketch map by Su Li

The three autonomous regions are: Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region, Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region, and Kwangsi Chuang Autonomous Region. (See *Peking Review*, March 18, 1958.)

The geographical distribution of autonomous *chou* and counties are as follows (numerals indicate their position on map):

Yunnan — has 8 autonomous *chou* in the province. They are Tehung (Tais and Chingpos)¹, Hsishuangpanna (Tais)², Hungho (Hanis and Yis)³, Nukiang (Lisus)⁴, Tiching (Tibetans)⁵, Tali (Pais)⁶, Wenshan (Chuang and Miaos)⁷, and Chuhsiung (Yis)⁸. There are 11 autonomous counties organized either by one or more of the following nationalities: Yis, Huis, Hanis, Tais, Kawas, Lahus, Tulungs and Nus.

Kweichow — has two autonomous *chou* in the province, one of the Miao and Tung peoples, in the southeastern part of the province⁹, and one of the Puyi and Miao peoples, in the south¹⁰. There are also three autonomous counties organized by one or more of the following nationalities: Miaos, Huis, Shuis, and Yis.

Szechuan — has three autonomous *chou* in the province. They are Kantse (Tibetans)¹¹, Ahpa (Tibetans)¹², and Liangshan (Yis)¹³. There is also one autonomous county (Tibetans).

Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region — there are five autonomous *chou* in this region. They are Ili (Kazakhs)¹⁴, Ketzulaisu (Khalkhas)¹⁵, Changchi (Huis)¹⁶, Payinkuoleng (Mongolians)¹⁷, and Poerhtala (Mongolians)¹⁸. There are also six autonomous counties established separately by the following nationalities: Huis, Tadjiks, Kazakhs, Mongolians and Sibos.

* An autonomous *chou* is an administrative unit below that of an autonomous region and above that of an autonomous county.

Chinghai — has six autonomous *chou* in the province. They are Haipei¹⁹, Hainan²⁰, Huangnan²¹, Yushu²², Kuolo²³ (all five of Tibetans), and Haisi (Mongolians, Tibetans, and Kazakhs)²⁴. There are five autonomous counties organized separately by the following nationalities: Huis, Tus, Salas, and Mongolians.

Kansu — has four autonomous *chou* in the province. They are Linsia²⁵, Kuyuan²⁶, Wuchung²⁷ (all three of the Huis), and Southern Kansu Tibetan Autonomous *Chou*²⁸. The seven autonomous counties of the province are organized separately by the following nationalities: Tunghsiangs, Yukus, Mongolians, Kazakhs, Tibetans, and Huis.

Hunan — has one autonomous *chou* in the province, i.e. the West Hunan Tuchia and Miao Autonomous *Chou*²⁹. There are four autonomous counties organized separately by the following nationalities: Tungs, Yaos, and Miaos.

Kwangtung — has one autonomous *chou* in the province, i.e. the Hainan Li and Miao Autonomous *Chou*³⁰. There are four autonomous counties organized separately or jointly by the Yao and Chuang nationalities.

Kwangsi Chuang Autonomous Region — there are seven autonomous counties in this region organized by one or more of the following nationalities: Yaos, Tungs, and Miaos.

Kirin — has the Yenpien Korean Autonomous *Chou*³¹ and an autonomous county of Mongolians.

Liaoning — has two autonomous counties of Mongolians.

Heilungkiang — has one autonomous county of Mongolians.

Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region — has an autonomous banner (equal to a county in status) of Olunchuns.

Hopei — has two autonomous counties of Huis.

New Stage in People's Viet-nam

by HOANG TUNG

This article on the new era in Viet-nam was written by the Chief Editor of "Nhandan," leading Viet-namese newspaper, for the Peking "Renmin Ribao," from which it has been translated in full.

PRESIDENT Ho Chi Minh, greeting the Viet-namese people on New Year's Day, 1958, said:

"The advent of the New Year marks the end of the period of post-war economic recovery and the beginning of the period of planned economic development."

These words have great meaning for the people of our country, particularly for the workers, peasants and intellectuals who are now heroically building socialism in the northern part of Viet-nam despite the difficulties confronting them.

The working people are well aware of the difficulties our country will have to cope with in the course of its growth. But they also have a deep understanding of the new and notable changes that past efforts have brought to our social life — changes that have laid the foundation for greater and more fundamental new changes in the future. A glance at a map of the part of Viet-nam which lies north of the 17th Parallel indicates the scene of these new changes.

Post-war Rehabilitation

An area of 130,000 hectares which was desolate at the end of the war has become a large expanse of farm land. The area of land under irrigation has increased by hundreds of thousands of hectares compared with the pre-war years. Almost all the old factories and mines have been restored and some of them have been enlarged. There are 15 newly established enterprises including the tin mine in Cao Bang, the machine works in Hanoi, the power station in Vinh and the match factory in Bac Ninh. The number of state enterprises has increased from 18 during the war to 78 at the end of 1957. This is far more than the number of enterprises established during the period of French rule.

In communications and transport, 553 kilometres of railway lines and more than 32,000 kilometres of highways seriously damaged during the war have been repaired, 583 kilometres of new highways have been built and 12,000 kilometres of telephone lines installed. Nine hundred and thirty-seven kilometres of navigation lines along the coast and 4,612 kilometres of waterways have been dredged. More than 5 million cubic metres of earthwork and stonework were completed for inland navigation lines and ports.

The problem is not only to restore the old productive enterprises but to attain the pre-war level of production, the level reached in 1939. The purpose is to stabilize

economic conditions, improve the living standards of the working people and create conditions for planned economic development. As early as 1955, the year after the restoration of peace, the output of rice surpassed the level of 1939 by about 1,193,000 tons — the biggest victory scored by our people. In 1956 it further increased by 532,000 tons.* Despite the long drought, the rice output in 1957 was only 180,000 tons less than in 1956. The output of such industrial crops as maize, cotton, hemp, flax and sugar cane has surpassed the pre-war level, too.

In industry, the total output value of coal and cement has reached about 65 per cent of the 1939 figure. Other important products, however, have caught up with or overtaken that year's level. In 1939 only 20 million metres of cotton cloth and 9,000 tons of cotton yarn were produced. In 1957, the output of cotton cloth reached 27,200,000 metres, and cotton yarn, 9,500 tons. The output of electricity supplied by power stations has already surpassed the level under French rule although only part of the newly established power stations have been commissioned. In addition to industrial products, large quantities of commodities have been produced by small-scale industrial units and approximately 500,000 handicraftsmen (there were only about 160,000 handicraftsmen in 1939).

Economic Conditions Stabilized

The restoration of agriculture, industry, handicraft production, communications and transport at fairly quick speed laid the essential material foundation for gradually stabilizing economic conditions and improving the people's living standards. With the foundation we built, and with the reinforcement of our country's resources through exchange of goods with the fraternal countries in the socialist camp and with goods supplied by them in the form of aid, we have been able to take effective measures to stabilize prices and the market.

The prices of principal consumer goods such as rice, cloth, salt and paper were stabilized, in the main, in 1955. There have been many difficulties in market control in the past three years, and sometimes the prices of certain commodities could not be maintained at a reasonable level. During the Spring Festival in February 1958, however, the figures issued by the commercial departments — very significant figures — showed that prices in January 1958 dropped 9 per cent as compared with the corresponding period in 1957, and that in 1958 the prices of one hundred commodities had been stabilized as against

* Rice output in 1939 was 2,407,000 tons (according to French statistics); in 1955, 3,600,000 tons; and in 1956, 4,132,000 tons.

just over a dozen during the previous year's Spring Festival. The price of pork was 25 per cent lower, tobacco 65 per cent lower, and sweets and confectioneries 20 to 50 per cent lower.

These efforts have gradually lessened the difficulties of the working people. The peasants have sufficient food grain, can build more houses, buy more farm tools and household goods. The 140,000 unemployed in the cities and industrial areas, left over from the old regime, have been provided with employment. New housing for workers with a floor space of 84,649 square metres and hundreds of health and medical centres have been built by the state.

The tasks of economic recovery undertaken in the northern part of Viet-nam — to restore the old productive enterprises and the pre-war productive level and stabilize the living conditions of the broad masses of the people — have been successfully and basically accomplished. Economic recovery in our country, as in other countries in the socialist camp, has not been confined to the rehabilitation of enterprises damaged by the war. From its inception it has been guided by the principle of combining economic recovery with transformation of the national economy. The work of economic recovery proceeded together with land reform in the countryside. As a result, the productive forces of more than 10 million peasants have been liberated, 895,000 hectares of land and 107,000 heads of draught animals have been expropriated and given to the peasants. The grain which was surrendered to the landlords in the form of rent annually — amounting to approximately 626,500 tons — is now kept by the peasants themselves. At the same time we have started to carry out the historic tasks of the period of transition to socialism — the preliminary transformation of the economy of the northern part of Viet-nam along socialist lines.

Preliminary Victory

Today the struggle between the rapidly growing socialist sector of the national economy, on the one hand, and the capitalist sector (which also has roots in the very extensive small-scale individual economy) on the other, is becoming more marked and sharper. This is a struggle determining whether socialism or capitalism will win. Socialist economy, now we can say, has scored a preliminary victory and a certain measure of success in this struggle during the past three years. Without this success it would have been impossible to achieve as much as we did in our economic recovery.

The most significant thing about our country's economy today is the fact that socialist economy has been in existence for a long time and that it has been growing since the restoration of peace. As soon as the northern part of Viet-nam was liberated the people's democratic government took over all the banks, railways and foreign trade, and turned the large French-operated enterprises such as the coal mine in Hon Gay, the cotton textile mill in Nam Dinh and the cement works in Haiphong into the public property of the whole people. Socialist commerce was already in bud during the war. Now it has grown into a network comprising 14 trades, 657 shops and 315 mobile sale units instead of the 447 shops three years ago. By the end of 1957 the socialist sector accounted for 21.8 per cent of the total output value of industry

and handicrafts, 26.9 per cent of retail sales and 52 per cent of wholesales. They are not large percentages, but the young and vigorous economic force of socialism has maintained its leading position in the national economy. Relying on this economic force the people's democratic government has step by step restricted the capitalist economy, promoted the semi-socialist economy and thus paved the way for the rapid expansion of production.

By the end of 1957, 44 farming co-operatives and 84,000 work-exchange teams were organized in the countryside, opening a bright perspective for agricultural co-operation. In handicraft production, 11.4 per cent of the handicraftsmen have joined collective production teams, representing 14.4 per cent of the total output value. Supply and marketing co-operatives have been established in 3,000 villages, with a total membership of 1,238,000. They account for 5.9 per cent of total retail sales. The semi-socialist economy of this type has been helping ever more forcefully the socialist economy to get an upper hand in the battle to build a new economic system.

Capitalist economy has also gone through preliminary transformation. Part of it has been transformed into state capitalism of a primary form — private industries accepting government contracts for the manufacture and processing of goods and private traders acting as sales agents for the state trading concerns.

Although private capitalist economy and small-scale individual economy still account for a large proportion of the economy, the aforementioned political and economic conditions have ensured the success of planned economy in our country. The state plans for 1956 and 1957 were successfully fulfilled and were overfulfilled by many departments, factories and mines.

Reasons for Success

The Viet-nameese people owe their achievements in economic recovery in the past three years to the correct policy pursued by the Lao Dong Party and the Government of the Viet-nam Democratic Republic: main stress on agricultural development with importance attached to industrial and handicraft production; making commerce an important lever to push and adjust economic activities as a whole; taking proper measures to utilize and transform private capitalist economy so as to build and expand socialist and semi-socialist economy as soon as possible; and regarding the improvement of the living standards of the working people as one of the important tasks in formulating both the long-term policy for economic recovery and the annual state plans.

This correct line of policy has inspired the broad masses of the working people to participate in emulation drives, to practise economy, take part in economic management and strive for thorough implementation of the state's economic and financial policies.

When our people speak of their achievements in economic recovery, they never forget the all-round assistance in personnel, technique, machines and goods given us by the Soviet Union, China and other fraternal countries in the socialist camp.

In 1958, the first year of our Three-Year Plan (1958-1960), our country entered a new era — the era of planned economic and cultural development. A host of difficulties

and hardships will crop up as we advance to socialism. We have favourable conditions, however, and that is the main thing. In the past three years, we have not only laid the necessary material foundation but accumulated certain experiences. We have at the same time made a certain degree of progress in the spheres of ideology,

organization, technique and economic management. On this basis it is possible for us to move forward with big strides in the future. Amidst the general advance of the socialist camp, the Viet-nameese people are convinced that they can and will successfully fulfil their first plan in the period of transition to socialism.

Natural Resources

China's Mineral Wealth

CHINA'S great mineral wealth was confirmed by geological prospecting during the First Five-Year Plan.

In 1953-57 a search was made for new sources of 49 minerals indispensable to industrialization. Most of the goals set were surpassed, with the result that there has been a tremendous increase in the measured and indicated reserves of the principal ores.

Iron: By the end of 1957, newly found reserves amounted to 4,554 million tons (the prospecting programme for iron was overfulfilled by 85 per cent). This brought the measured and indicated total to 4,700 million tons (it was only 145 million tons in 1952). It put China third in the world in iron ore, after the U.S.S.R. and India, and ahead of both France and the U.S.A. As now provisionally estimated, China's possible reserves are 12,000 million tons.

Coal: By the end of 1957, new-found reserves stood at 32,550 million tons (the prospecting plan was overfulfilled by 61 per cent), making a known total of 44,200 million tons together with the 11,700 million tons previously mapped. China is now sixth in the world in coal. Possible reserves are thought to be 1,500,000 million tons.

Manganese: Discoveries during the First Five-Year Plan were 86 per cent greater than planned, bringing China to second place in the world in this mineral, next only to the U.S.S.R. and ahead of Equatorial Africa.

Copper: Prospecting in 1953-57 exceeded the plan by 41 per cent. It put China sixth in the world for measured and indicated copper reserves after the U.S.S.R., North Rhodesia, U.S.A., Chile, and the Belgian Congo and ahead of Canada.

Lead: Prospecting was 67 per cent over the First Five-Year Plan goal; measured and indicated reserves are the world's second largest (the Soviet Union is first).

Tungsten: Prospecting: 53 per cent above target. Measured and indicated reserves: second largest in the world (after the Soviet Union) and greater than the sum total of all the capitalist countries.

Aluminium: Prospecting in 1953-57: 80 per cent above target. Reserves: greatly in excess of those of the U.S.A. and second only to those of the U.S.S.R.

Tin: The world's largest measured and indicated reserves, as established by prospecting (8 per cent above target), exceeding those of Malaya.

Molybdenum: Prospecting in this metal revealed reserves 611 per cent greater than expected in the First Five-Year Plan period, putting China first in the world, ahead of the U.S.A. which formerly held this place.

Petroleum: The measured and indicated reserves at the end of the First Five-Year Plan were 240 per cent in excess of those at the end of 1952. In oil shales prospecting was 83 per cent of the planned figure, bringing measured and indicated reserves to 5,930 million tons.

Phosphorus: By the end of 1957, the measured and indicated reserves amounted to 300 million tons; the prospecting plan was overfulfilled by 552 per cent.

Pyrites: Prospecting plan 263 per cent overfulfilled. Known reserves: 66,600,000 tons.

It is a fortunate fact that these deposits of mineral wealth have been discovered in many parts of the country. Many are suitable for immediate exploitation. It is already estimated that the iron ore deposits in the Chilian Mountain region of northwest China, and at Panchihhua on the Szechuan-Yunnan border in the southwest can meet the needs of two iron and steel integrated plants each with an annual output of over 1,500,000 tons. Other raw materials needed for ferrous metallurgy are also available in quantity in the vicinity of these mines. These are therefore ideal locations for new iron and steel centres in northwest and southwest China.

Discoveries at Karamai, oil strikes in many parts of the Tsaidam Basin in Chinghai Province and particularly the recent confirmation of central Szechuan as a great oilfield give the lie to foreign scientists who used to say that China lacks oil.

Many deposits of rare metals have also been found. These are of great importance to the development of new industries and the use of the latest technology in China.

China's many salt-marshes and salt-mines can be made to yield quite a number of useful products which, properly processed, can be used as substitutes for certain minerals the country is short of.

Few countries have such varied mineral wealth as China. The United States is quite rich in coal, iron, copper and petroleum—but she lacks manganese, chromium, nickel, tungsten, tin, aluminium, mercury, asbestos and diamonds. Britain is rather rich in coal, but, according to data published by the Fifth World Power Conference (Vienna, 1956), her total possible coal deposits are only 173,900 million tons—only about 10 per cent of China's.

Museums in Peking

PEKING museums and exhibition halls are ready for a new influx of visitors. The Palace Museum is known the world over, but apart from this there are many other places of historical interest.

The Historical Museum

The Historical Museum is situated just inside Tien An Men (Gate of Heavenly Peace). It has its exhibition in the pavilions where ministers formerly waited for audience with the Emperor and rooms on the gate-tower of the Wu Men (Meridian Gate) further inside the old Forbidden City. It now has five exhibition halls. The first shows primitive society in China. It has models of the early men who lived in China 500,000 years ago, with examples of the tools they used, and dioramas of their settlements. Bone awls, ornaments and other artefacts used by the cave men show the growth of culture. Specimens of the famous polychrome and black pottery vessels and other exhibits illustrate the conditions of life in neolithic times in China.

The next section brings the visitor to the period of the Hsia, Shang and Chou dynasties. Inscriptions on oracle bones displayed here describe the methods of using farm tools and conditions of agricultural production in the Shang dynasty. The magnificent bronzes, pottery-ware, jade articles, stone, ivory and bone carvings and other handicrafts of the Shang dynasty explain how division of labour was carried out in the slave society of ancient China. Inscriptions on bronzes of the Chou dynasty show that a slave society existed under the Western Chou dynasty. Iron tools excavated in Hweih sien in 1951, and used by people of the Warring States period, afford vivid evidence of the progress made in the forces of production at this time.

The third section deals with the Chin, Han, Wei, Tsin, and Period of Southern and Northern dynasties. Farm and metallurgical work in the Han dynasty is illustrated by the iron weapons and tools used by the people of the time. Rubbings from the rich store of Han stone carvings which are now known, fill out the picture. Specimens of the actual grains sown and eaten in the Han dynasty unearthed in Loyang, and the cultural objects unearthed in Shensi, Sinkiang, Huhehot, and Shaohsing give a brilliant picture of the cultural achievements of the various periods.

The fourth section deals with the Sui, Tang, and Period of Five Dynasties. Here the visitor sees iron farming implements and other tools excavated in Yih sien in Hopei Province; hand-written Buddhist scriptures of the Tang dynasty discovered in Tunhuang in Kansu Province; documents unearthed in Turfan in the Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region, which throw light on the land and corvee systems of the Tang dynasty. There are also materials giving detailed information about the great peasant uprisings which played a decisive role in historical progress, such as those of Chen Sheng and Wu Kuang at the end of the Chin dynasty, and the Chih Mei (Red

Eyebrows), Huang Chin (Yellow Turbans) of the Han dynasty, and that led by Huang Chao towards the end of the Tang dynasty. Here, also, the visitor gets information about China's great men of medicine, mathematicians, builders, historians, artists and writers of the various periods.

The modern history section of the museum gives a general survey of the period from the Opium War down to the May the Fourth Movement of 1919. The exhibits include the original memorials of Lin Tse-hsu, the viceroy who burnt the chests of British opium in Canton; relics connected with the heroic resistance of the Ping Ying Tuan (Beat the British Corps) against the British attack; pictures and relics of the Taiping Tien Kuo (Heavenly Kingdom) from the initial uprising at Chintien to its final defeat; and many documents and relics of the Sino-French War, Sino-Japanese War, the Reform Movement of 1898, and the Yi Ho Tuan or "Boxers" rising of 1899-1901. More than 60 weapons and banners connected with the Yi Ho Tuan Movement returned to China by the Leningrad and Moscow Museums of the Revolution and the Museum of the German Democratic Republic are also displayed here. The considerable collection of relics, pictures, and books connected with the activities of the Hsing Chung Hui (Revive China Society) and Tung Meng Hui (China Revolutionary League) and the Wuchang Uprising helps to explain the historical significance of the 1911 Revolution. Books, periodicals, badges, photographs and handbills of the time illuminate the great role played by the May the Fourth Movement in modern Chinese history.

A fifth section, dealing with the Sung, Yuan, Ming and Ching (Manchu) dynasties, will be opened this year, thus completing the picture of Chinese history from remote antiquity to modern times.



Glass bowl made in the 6th century during the Northern Chi dynasty. Preserved in Peking's Historical Museum, this is a unique example of the technical progress achieved in glass making at that time. It was discovered in an ancient tomb in Chinghsien, Hopei Province, during the Liberation War

To celebrate May Day, the Historical Museum has organized three extra exhibitions which opened on May 2: "Historical Materials Relating to the Sung and Yuan Dynasties," "Mural Paintings from Ancient Chinese Tombs" and "Silk Embroideries of the Ming and Ching Dynasties."

Choukoutien

Choukoutien is a small village 48 kilometres south-west of Peking. Few had ever heard of it till December 2, 1929 when the first complete cranium of Peking Man, the Chinese ape-man, was discovered there. Since then it has become world famous.

The caves in which Peking Man lived can be seen on the northern slopes of the Lungkushan (Dragon Bone Mountain) just east of Choukoutien railway station. Dozens of fossilized bones as well as 118 fossils of various kinds of animals have been found in these caves. A large number of stone tools made by this early man and proofs of their use of fire have also been found.

All the fossils of Peking Man discovered before liberation were spirited away by the imperialists during the Second World War, as were the fossils of the Upper Cave Man. But casts of the original discoveries are on view. In addition, there are fossils discovered after liberation: five teeth, one section of humerus, and one section of leg-bone.

In September 1953 the Research Department of Palaeovertebrates established an exhibition hall at the



This ancient instrument, ecliptic armilla, made of bronze in 1674, was used to determine ecliptic co-ordinates of heavenly bodies

Lungkushan which gives a very good idea of the background of Peking Man and his place in archaeology.

Ancient Astronomical Instruments

The Museum of Ancient Astronomical Instruments is situated at the Chien Kuo Men Gate, Tung Tan District, east Peking. This was the original site of the ancient observatory of Peking first established in 1279. It had a succession of picturesque names: the Platform for Observing the Heavens, the Star-Gazing Platform, the Platform for Observing Heavenly Phenomena, and later the more prosaic title of Central Observatory. Eight rare astronomical instruments used in ancient times are on exhibit here. They are the celestial globe, quadrant, theodolite, equatorial armilla, ecliptic armilla, ancient sextant, new armilla and altazimuth. There are other exhibits showing ancient Chinese achievements in astronomy, ways of devising calendars as well as astronomical work in modern China.

National Music Museum

For the serious student of Chinese music and the amateur the Museum and Library of National Music, affiliated with the National Music Research Department of the Central Institute of Music, is a treasure house of authoritative information. Its specialized collection of 46,000 volumes and 1,059 musical instruments and related exhibits is unique. Some 37,600 items are displayed in its eleven rooms. The museum was set up in 1954 and is the first of its kind to engage in scientific research on Chinese music. Three rooms are devoted to the history of Chinese music: ancient, modern and contemporary, and the art in New China. They give a systematic account of the evolution of Chinese music and of the new socialist-realist musical tradition. Here are models of the big stone chimes of the Shang dynasty; the *Yueh Shu* (Book of Music) by Chen Yang of the Sung dynasty, the first Chinese encyclopedia of music; and the text and music of such songs as the revolutionary folk songs of the Taiping Kingdom, the *Revolutionary Song of the People*, and *Let Us Fight Our Way Back to Our Home*, that have inspired the people in their long fight for freedom. More than a thousand pictures illustrate musical activities, both at home and abroad, since liberation.

One room is filled with the musical instruments of the Han (Chinese) nationality, another with those of 15 of the national minorities, and still another with 44 kinds of improved musical instruments.

The National Music Research Department has a collection of 20,000 folk songs of the various nationalities of China. Part of these are displayed in the room of materials dealing with folk music.

In the room of international friendship are folk musical instruments, song books and scores and many other presents given to China by 23 countries, including the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Poland, India, France and Belgium.

The Lu Hsun Museum

Just inside the Fu Cheng Men Gate, attached to the house in which Lu Hsun lived while in Peking, is the Lu Hsun Museum. It contains a large collection of his manuscripts and other pictures and mementoes connected

with his life. Here also are translations of his works in 24 languages including Russian, English, French, Japanese, and Esperanto, a set of the *Complete Works of Lu Hsun* published in 1938 and the first and second volumes of the *Complete Works of Lu Hsun* with notes published in 1956. Lu Hsun's private library of 16,000 volumes is housed in a new wing. In its bookcases are books bound by Lu Hsun himself. It is all an astonishing commentary on the tireless energy, courage and wide-ranging mind of this great pioneer of China's new culture.

The Hsu Pei-hung (Ju Peon) Memorial Hall

The Hsu Pei-hung Memorial Hall was originally the house where the painter had lived for seven years. Here the visitor sees his studio, books, reproductions and pictures copied and collected by him; mementoes connected with his life; and his works including paintings in Chinese ink and colour and sketches and layouts for paintings.

Exhibition on Reform of the Chinese Written Language

The Exhibition Hall of Documents and Materials Connected with the Reform of the Chinese Written Language contains books, pictures, and other exhibits connected with the simplification and study of the Chinese characters as well as the phoneticization of the Chinese language. This exhibition gives a brief but authoritative

account of the genesis, evolution and development of the Chinese ideographs and the efforts to reform them in line with most of the world's languages which are phonetic in character.

The first of four rooms contains documents and materials connected mainly with the simplification and study of the Chinese characters. The second, third, and fourth rooms contain valuable historical materials connected with phoneticization of the Chinese language.

Museum of Natural History

The building to house the Central Museum of Natural History is still under construction, but it is scheduled to open on October 1 this year. The first rooms to be opened will be those containing replicas of plants and animals either stuffed or modelled. The museum will be a popular scientific educational centre for the general public.

The personnel of the museum had arranged two exhibitions in the former Imperial Palace inside the Tung Hua Men. The first was an exhibition of the natural environment and mineral resources of China, the second one of its agricultural products and resources. This latter will become part of the division of plants in the future museum. At the moment a mobile exhibition is being held showing how China plans to catch up with Britain in the output of major industrial products in fifteen years.

Theatre

Tea House—a New Play by Lao Sheh

by FENG TZU

A GREAT variety of plays have appeared on Peking's stages this spring. New ground has been broken in various genres of Chinese dramatic art—Peking opera, *Pingchu* opera and the modern Chinese drama.

The *Tea House* is a new play by Lao Sheh whose *Dragon Beard Ditch* and *Rickshaw Boy* (based on the novel of the same name) created a sensation when they were staged in Peking and other parts of the country. Lao Sheh's latest play, presented by the Peking People's Art Theatre, has been the talk of the town since its premiere at the end of March.

The action of the play is laid in a large tea house which used to be a centre of all sorts of activities in old China. The story covers a period of about fifty years, from the last days of the Ching dynasty (1644-1911) to the years following the Anti-Japanese War.

Vivid Picture of Old Society

Through the vicissitudes of the tea house owned by Wang Li-fa the audience sees the life of the Chinese people under the feudal rulers of old China and their sufferings at the hands of foreign imperialists, warlords, bureaucrats and the Kuomintang reactionaries. The seventy or so characters in the play, of different social strata and professions, with their distinct likes and dis-

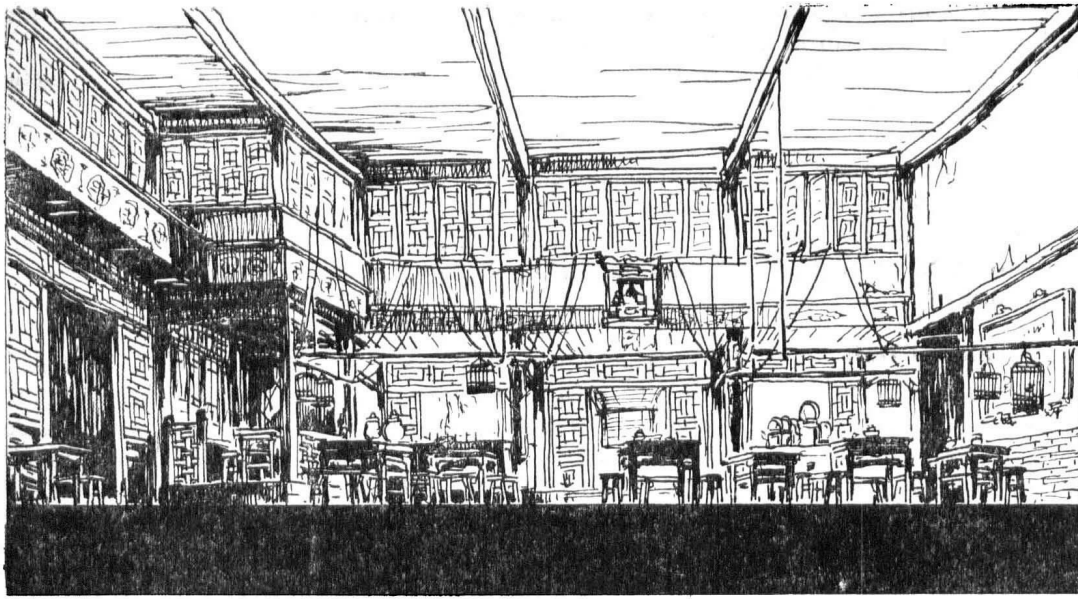
likes, interweave in a vivid picture of old Chinese society, depicted from the vantage point of the goings-on at Wang Li-fa's tea house.

The play consists of three acts. The first act is set in the period of the 1898 Reform Movement which ended in a fiasco. The radical reformer Tan Szu-tung was beheaded; the Ching government bowed abjectly to Britain and France, while the imperialists stepped up their political and economic aggression in China. In those days it was "fashionable" to be in the employ of the foreign missionaries and to deal in foreign commodities. The national capitalists were first beginning to make their appearance. Meanwhile the peasants in the countryside became so poverty-stricken that they were compelled to



Wang Li-fa, the owner of the tea house

Sketch by Yeh Chien-yu



Decor for the "Tea House," Act I

Designed by Wang Wen-chung

sell their children. Kang Liu, one of the characters in the play, was so hard pressed by his landlord that he had to sell his daughter Shun-tzu to Pang, a eunuch, to be his phantom wife. At that time anybody who cast the slightest aspersions on the government was liable to arrest and imprisonment. On the other hand, special agents in the employ of the corrupt government and the imperialists, various scoundrels and swindlers ran rampant.

The second act describes the period ten years later when the warlords, working hand in glove with their various imperialist masters, carved out domains for themselves and plunged the country into incessant civil wars and internal strife. Wang Li-fa, who had been doing his best to carry on the business which he inherited from his father, found it necessary to improve and expand his tea house so as to meet the demands of the time. His new tea house had not yet opened, but policemen and soldiers pounced on him and extorted money from him. In that world Wang Li-fa had to make the best of it, putting up with humiliations and hardships. He converted the backyard of his tea house to lodgings which he rented to students so as to make both ends meet. Meanwhile Pang the eunuch had died, and Shun-tzu, who had suffered bitterly in the unnatural union, came with her foster son Ta-li to Wang's tea house, where her father had sold her years ago. She was taken on by Wang's wife as their servant.

Peking's Grim Days

The third act brings us to the eve of liberation. Wang Li-fa, the keeper of the tea house, is now an old man. In order to keep the place going, he considers hiring a waitress, the latest fashion of that time. The war against Japanese aggression has ended; the older special agents, swashbucklers and hoodlums have died out, but a younger generation of them continues to thrive. And new trouble-makers have appeared as well—the Kuomintang "take-over" officials and the American GIs. Those were grim days for the people of Peking. But the sparks of hope could not be easily extinguished. The students' movement for freedom, national sovereignty and integrity spread like a prairie fire. Ta-li, Shun-tzu's foster son, goes to the liberated area just outside Peking,

while the city itself awaits liberation. But poor old Wang Li-fa does not live to see better days. His tea house is seized by a Kuomintang military police officer who wants to turn it into a club. Wang Li-fa, finding himself without a place to live in, hangs himself.

Lao Sheh has painted a gripping picture of the rotten-to-the-core society of the past. Exposing the evils of the old days, Lao Sheh's sympathy for the honest and decent forces, for the revolutionaries, is strongly felt. He shows these people and the Liberation Army as the hope for the future. Though

he tells little about these people in his play, the little that he does say about them clearly shows the contrast between the dark old days and the bright days to come. The future which these people struggled for was the future looked forward to by the playwright himself.

A high degree of literary skill is displayed by Lao Sheh in his depiction of three eras in three acts. Some of the characters in the play only appear for a moment. Some appear without speaking at all. But each character has features of his own that distinguish him from the others. All of the characters in the play stand out in clear relief, freshly and vividly.

Dialogue and Humour

Lao Sheh is noted for his dialogue: the words he chooses for his characters suit their positions perfectly. He is also known for his humour. These features and the excellent characterization make the play a great hit.

Lao Sheh's technique also deserves a word. On the walls of the tea house are pasted a number of notices with the words "Don't talk politics!" Their number increases with each era, and the notices are written in ever larger and bolder characters. By this simple means the playwright has succeeded in bringing out the distinct, common feature of the three eras, each probably worse than the preceding one.

The performance by the Peking People's Art Theatre is excellent. Back in 1951 this same theatre staged Lao Sheh's *Dragon Beard Ditch* which was also a tremendous success. The title role of Wang Li-fa in the *Tea House* is played by Yu Shih-chih who played Madman Cheng in the *Dragon Beard Ditch*. The role of Wang Li-fa makes great demands on the actor. He has to appear first as an honest young man doing his utmost to carry on his father's business, then as a middle-aged man struggling to keep his tea house in operation, and lastly as an old man who is driven to suicide by the Kuomintang officials. There is an interesting feature in the casting too: the actors who play special agents, slave-trader and fortune-teller in the first and second acts, appear again in the third act as the younger successors of the same breed. The acting is first rate.

CHINA AND THE WORLD

May Day Visitors

Over seven hundred invited guests came to Peking from Asia, Africa, Latin America, Australasia and Europe to take part in this year's May Day celebrations.

As individuals or in delegations they represented trade unions, women's, youth, peace and friendship organizations, cultural, athletic, journalistic, scientific, educational, religious, commercial and juridical circles, public health, agricultural, water conservancy, social welfare and other services. Several government and military missions were also present.

These visitors came from forty-three countries: the U.S.S.R., Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, Bulgaria, Burma, Ceylon, Chile, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Equatorial Africa, France, the German Democratic Republic, the German Federal Republic, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Jordan, the Korean Democratic People's Republic, Lebanon, Mongolia, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Rumania, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Arab Republic, Uruguay, the Viet-nam Democratic Republic, West Africa and Yugoslavia.

Trade union delegations invited by the All-China Federation of Trade Unions formed the largest group — 33 delegations from 26 countries.

Chinese Assistance to the Yemen

Agreement on the principles which will guide Chinese assistance to the Yemen in building motor roads and factories has been reached in talks between Crown Prince al-Badr, the Yemeni Premier, and the Chinese Minister to the Yemen, Chen Chia-kang.

Chinese assistance in the building of projects will be carried out under the direction of the Yemeni Government and a Yemeni organization designated for the purpose. Yemeni personnel will take part in the actual work of construction. As soon as completed, the projects will be taken over and managed by the Yemen. During the course of construction, China will help train Yemeni technical and managerial personnel so that in the

future the Yemen can undertake various types of construction by herself.

TRADE NEWS

Twenty-seven million pounds sterling worth of business was transacted at the Canton Export Commodities Fair in the fifteen days ending April 30. Up to that date 1,200 foreign and Chinese businessmen from Hongkong, Macao and Southeast Asia had visited the Fair, and more are coming.

In addition to traditional exports, such goods as Chinese-made knitwear, nylons, sugar and chemicals are proving popular among buyers. Saccharine, which China imported until recently, is being sold in large quantities.

Chinese trade organizations are also signing important import contracts at the Fair. Wooltops, dyestuffs and microscopes are some of the goods bought. Other deals are in the offing.

Trade authorities in Canton attribute the Fair's success to the current big leap forward in China's economy, which is increasing both her import needs and export possibilities.

The Chinese pavilion at the current Casablanca International Exhibition was visited by King Mohammed V of Morocco on April 25, the day the exhibition opened.

Light industrial products, art handicrafts and various kinds of Chinese tea are on display and attracting considerable attention.

A 1958 trade protocol was recently signed in Berlin between China and the German Democratic Republic. It provides for the exchange of Chinese minerals, chemicals, farm products, hides, canned foods, handicrafts, textiles and

other consumer goods for complete sets of industrial equipment, machinery, precision optical instruments, electrical equipment and printing machinery from the G.D.R.

BRIEFS

Six divisions of Chinese People's Volunteers, totalling 80,000 men, returned from Korea between March 15 and April 25. This completes the first stage of the C.P.V. withdrawal from Korea.

The Mongolian People's Republic is sending China 15,000 draught horses as a gift to help the big forward leap in Chinese agriculture this year. The horses will arrive in China during the summer and autumn, together with an equal number of horses which China bought from Mongolia this year.

Since 1951, China has purchased 155,000 Mongolian horses for her farms.

King Mahendra of Nepal has presented China with a six-month-old, one-horned rhinoceros — a rare species found only in the sub-Himalayan areas on the Indo-Nepal border and in Assam.

In March this year, Premier Chou En-lai presented King Mahendra with six pure bred horses as a token of Chinese good will to Nepal.

The writer Yang Shuo left China for Cairo on April 28. He has been nominated by the Chinese Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity as member of the Permanent Secretariat of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Council.

The Council, set up by the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Conference in January, will have secretaries from ten countries.

Rumanian Exhibition in Peking

Roaming through the pavilions of the Rumanian Economic Exhibition now on in Peking, this visitor heard a Rumanian technician demonstrating a Utos-45 tractor to a group of visitors and talking to them — in Chinese. Stef Aurel, the technician, picked up his Chinese on the job: he spent the whole of 1956 travelling in China training hundreds of Chinese drivers for Utos tractors which Rumania is supplying China in quantity. Aurel's first-hand experience in China is a handy asset in his new work. His presence there heightens the sense of the close ties existing between Rumania and China which one gathers at the exhibition.

The scores of machines and stands of heavy and light industrial and agricultural products on show give tangible evidence of the socialist achievements of the Rumanian people. It shows how Rumania, in a few years under socialism, grew into a country with a modern industry and agriculture.

It also recalls the generous aid Rumania gives to China. The modern oil drills and tractors on display — types that are regularly supplied to China — and giant photos of the cement and power plants Rumania has helped China build always have a crowd of interested visitors around them. All China knows how much Rumanian help has meant to this country's fast-growing but young oil industry, and the part Rumanian technicians have played at Yumen and Karamai in north-west China, the two leading oil centres.

Exhibitions of Czechoslovak "weak current" equipment and Hungarian radio-telecommunications and precision equipment are also on in the capital. They are sponsored by the respective commercial representatives of the two countries in Peking. Czechoslovak and Hungarian experts are on hand here too to demonstrate the samples of products shown and give talks and lead forums on the latest developments in these fields.

CHINESE PRESS OPINION

Asian-African Co-operation

Da Gong Bao on April 29 calls for greater economic co-operation among Asian and African countries. This, it says, "will help these countries free themselves quicker from imperialist economic enslavement and ward off the effects of the U.S. economic crisis."

Referring to the proposal of the Ceylonese Prime Minister Bandaranaike for an Asian-African Economic Conference this year, the paper expresses confidence that such co-operation is the common desire of the Asian and African peoples.

It points out that since the Second World War the U.S. has greatly expanded its exports of capital, and many Asian and African countries find they have become more dependent on the United States in foreign trade. The current U.S. economic recession has therefore posed a threat to their economies.

In this situation, the paper notes, the Asian and African peoples have come to realize more clearly that they must strive to get rid of economic control and exploitation by the United States and other imperialist countries and that in addition they need to strengthen economic co-operation among themselves and promote trade with the socialist countries.

Economic co-operation between China and other Asian and African countries, the paper says, shows that these countries can trade with and help each other on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. The economic help given by Asian and African nations to Egypt during the Suez crisis and to Indonesia in her struggle to recover West Irian prove that the Asian and African countries can do wonders when they maintain solidarity and help each other.

The article goes on to emphasize that the chances are all the greater for the Asian and African nations to win complete economic independence and break the economic fetters of Western imperialism now that the socialist countries have become a decisive force in the world. As examples of what economic co-operation with socialist countries brings, it cites the disinterested economic and technical assistance the Soviet Union has given to India, the United Arab Republic, Indonesia, Burma, Ceylon and other

countries to help their industrialization programmes.

Africa's New Enemy

In their fight for independence and freedom the African people are now confronted with a

new and fiercer enemy — U.S. imperialism. By its own admission (the Eisenhower-Dulles Doctrine), U.S. imperialism wants to fill the "vacuum" left by declining British and French imperialism, writes Chin Chun-hua, specialist in international affairs, in an article in *Shijie Zhishi* (Knowledge of the World).

Reviewing the rapid advances made by the African national independence movements since the Bandung Conference in 1955, he points out that America's aggressive moves in Africa are carried out on three fronts — political, economic and military. Economic "aid" and private investment are used to open the way for eventual domination. "In the economic field, U.S. monopoly capital is trying gradually to oust British and French capital in South Africa, the Congo, Rhodesia and Morocco, so as to bring these regions under its exclusive control. In the political field, to hoodwink the African peoples, the U.S. imperialists make a show of opposing the British and French ways of running their colonies but actually they give military and financial support to the Anglo-French colonialists and openly take their side in the United Nations."

Dwelling on the need for vigilance in dealing with this new enemy, Chin Chun-hua points out: "The African people have a lot of experience in battling British and French imperialisms, but not so much in the fight against Wall Street imperialism. At the same time, it should be borne in mind that although there are contradictions between U.S. and Anglo-French imperialism, the old and new imperialist forces are nevertheless at one when it comes to dealing with the African people's struggle for independence and liberation."

"The Chinese people," Chin Chun-hua concludes, "will stand in close unity with the peoples of all the African countries; we have boundless sympathy for the African people in their struggles and are profoundly confident that those struggles will end in complete victory."

Whither Japan

"The Chinese people are closely watching the turn of events in Japan," declares *Renmin Ribao's* commentator on April 30 in an analysis of the Japanese political situation following Kishi's announce-

ment dissolving the Lower House pending general elections.

The dissolution of the Japanese Lower House is a "result of the Japanese people's growing opposition to the Kishi government" and a "blow to both U.S. reaction and the Japanese monopoly capitalists," the commentator points out; both want a stable Kishi government, though for different reasons. The U.S. reaction wants a pro-American, anti-communist Kishi regime capable of turning Japan into a bridgehead for its aggression in the Far East. The Japanese monopoly capitalists also want a stable Kishi government to further their exploitation of the Japanese people at home while at the same time pushing forward with economic expansion abroad so that one day they can realize their hidden imperialist ambitions.

Behind the present electoral battle, the commentator continues, lies the struggle between two opposing lines for the Japanese nation. Toeing the U.S. line, serving as America's pawn in its anti-communist crusade, and taking a hostile stand towards China and the Soviet Union — this is the line Kishi has taken in a vain attempt to revive the old dreams of Japanese imperialism with U.S. backing. The Japanese people and all Japanese progressive parties, including the Social Democratic Party, advocate a different line. They want to break away from U.S. control, abolish the unequal treaties with the United States, recover Okinawa and the Bonin Islands, establish an atom-free zone covering Japan, sever ties with the Chiang Kai-shek clique, work for an early restoration of diplomatic relations with China, improve relations with the Soviet Union, get away from one-sided reliance on trade with the United States, and establish genuine democracy. This line is daily gaining support.

U.S. Meddling in Laos

A May 3 *Renmin Ribao* editorial calls attention to the grave situation in Laos caused by U.S. activities to sabotage the Laotian supplementary elections on May 4. The paper expressed the hope that the Laotian Government will make efforts to ensure fair and just elections.

Quoting reports from Laotian papers on intensified persecution of members of the former Pathet Lao fighting units and of the Laotian Patriotic Front by certain U.S.-incited reactionary forces in that country, a commentator in the same paper charged on May 1: "The U.S. aim is to create antagonism between the different political parties and wreck the atmosphere of unity in the country so that it can fish in troubled waters."

"The U.S. activities," the commentator went on, "present a serious challenge to all Laotian patriots. In 1954, the Laotian people chose peace despite bitter U.S. opposition at Geneva. Later, they chose unification and a coalition government, again over U.S. opposition. Now that Washington is again resorting to underhand means to sabotage the supplementary elections with the aim of wrecking the peace and unification of Laos, we have every reason to believe that the Laotian people will once again frustrate U.S. intervention."

"The Chinese people," the writer concluded, "joyfully greeted establishment of a coalition government in Laos and implementation of the agreement between the Royal Government and the Pathet Lao as these developments conform with the spirit of the Geneva Agreements, the interest of the Laotian people and of peace in that region. For the same reason, the Chinese people hope and trust that the Government of the Kingdom of the Laos and patriots from all ranks of society in the country will strengthen their unity and oppose U.S. intervention so that there will be more favourable conditions for the peaceful unification of Laos."

A Shady Mission

"Menderes comes to the Far East on the orders of his U.S. master," says a *Renmin Ribao* article on May 1, commenting on the Turkish Prime Minister's visit to Japan, South Korea and Taiwan. "Harping on Washington's stale tunes, he is blatantly playing the U.S. game of undermining peace in the Far East and stirring up hostility against the Chinese and Soviet peoples."

"The idea of a Northeast Asia aggressive bloc which Menderes is trying to peddle on this trip, dates back to the time of the Korean war," the commentator points out. "The scheme failed then because of the notorious nature of the Syngman Rhee and Chiang Kai-shek cliques, the deep-seated contradictions between them, and above all because of the opposition it aroused among the broad masses of the Asian peoples."

"The American position in Asia has become even more embarrassing and isolated following the withdrawal of the Chinese People's Volunteers from Korea—a move aimed to promote the peaceful unification of Korea and ease international tension. To extricate itself from its present predicament and aggravate tension in the Far East, Washington is now stepping up its attempt to set up a Northeast Asia aggressive bloc. Acting behind the scenes, it has dragged out the Prime

Two Friends in Need, Are Friends Indeed

Mr. Zorlu, Turkish Foreign Minister, is as clever as he is generous: he is quick to warn others of impending danger and offer other people's helping hands to the needy. Travelling in Japan, he warned his hosts that they should be wary of trading with China as it is a "matter of feeding the enemy." But aware that Japan is confronted with a critical economic situation, he commiserated: "We know you have trade problems. It is up to every nation in the free world to pitch in and help."

Mr. Zorlu speaks from experience. His own country, neck deep in debt and also tied to the U.S. embargo policy, had a trade deficit of \$1,000 million last year and it continues to mount steadily.

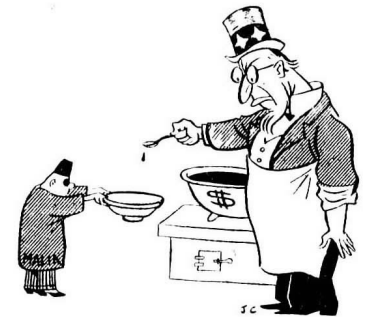
End of the Honeymoon

The Lebanese Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee was the recent scene of a scathing denunciation of U.S. double-dealing.

Emile Bustani, former Minister of Planning, declared: "The enormous aid promised by the Eisenhower Doctrine has turned out to be only a dream. . . . Lebanon was the first Arab country to endorse the Eisenhower Doctrine but it got only ten million dollars. . . . Lebanon has been isolated from the other Arab countries."

"You spoke of unlimited American aid but now we see that nothing like that has happened," pro-American Foreign Minister Malik was told.

Easy gains were always the bait with which the confidence trickster gets his victims. Mr. Malik isn't the first to buy gold bricks at half price in Washington.



Mind Those Glass Houses!

With a trade deficit of \$186 million, a national debt of \$800 million and one out of every four of its workers jobless or underemployed, the Philippine economy is in a bad way. Who is responsible for this? *Time* magazine, washing U.S. hands of the mess, in an article on April 21, puts the blame squarely on Filipino President Garcia and his regime which it describes as "the dirtiest government in the world."

Philippine politicians decided to hit back. At a rally in Manila to protest against the article, one speaker charged Washington with responsibility for the present parlous state of Philippine economic affairs because this was the result of the policy mapped out with the help of the American Technical Advisory Group.

Time also alleged that Garcia received bribes through his wife, who has a "taste for jewelry." "What's wrong with that?" asked another speaker, "hasn't the wife of the U.S. president received gifts too?"

Minister of Turkey—a member of the Bagdad Pact—to be its salesman.

"The people of Asia, however, regard Menderes as no less notorious than other American lackeys. The poverty and misery of the Turkish people, resulting from the increasing burden of arms which Turkey bears as a member of the Bagdad Pact, is a living warning to all who follow the American policy of aggression. The Asian people who love peace will not be deceived by Menderes' warmongering. His shady mission is doomed to failure."

Victory in Togoland

"The electoral victory in Togoland of a nationalist party, the Togoland Unification Committee, indicates the strong desire of an awakened people for independence and freedom," declares *Renmin Ribao* in a commentary on April 30.

"The April 27 election to the Togoland Legislative Assembly spelled disastrous failure for the French colonial programme of so-called 'self-government' designed to deceive the Togoland people and to turn aside or smother their struggle for freedom. The election shows that the Togoland people have taken a big step towards independence and freedom."

"As shown by the decisions of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Conference and the Accra Conference of Independent African States, the struggle in Togoland vitally concerns the Asian and African peoples."

"No force on earth can check the historic change which is taking place in Togoland as in other parts of Africa. A stubborn colonial enemy may still be blocking their national independence movement, and there may be other difficulties, but the Togoland people, as a new growing force, will certainly realize

their desire for independence and freedom."

A Challenge to Peace

"The H-bomb test on Christmas Island is a challenge to the British people and world peace," writes *Renmin Ribao's* commentator on May 1, protesting against this act against relaxation of world tension.

The commentator exposes the lie and self-deception behind Macmillan's claim that the tests would strengthen Britain's "status as a big power." "Britain's unsavoury role in this challenge to peace will only bring her contempt in the eyes of the world's people," he says.

"The present tests are being carried out at a time when the Soviet Union has already announced its decision to cease nuclear weapon tests unilaterally. The peoples of the world will reply to this arrogant provocation with increased opposition."

U.S.S.R.-West German Agreement

"A good example of resolving issues through negotiations," says a *Guangming Ribao* commentary (May 1) of the U.S.S.R.-West German Economic Agreement and the Mikoyan-Adenauer Communiqué.

"Nevertheless," the commentary warns, "revival of West German militarism and its move to atomic rearmament have increased the danger of war and constitute a big threat to the West German people. . . . They also constitute an obstacle standing in the way of a lessening of international tension, the holding of a summit conference and the peaceful unification of Germany."

The commentary concludes by advising the West German rulers to think again and give up their policy of atomic war preparations in deference to the desires of the West German people and the interests of European peace.

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 BLACK WHIRLWIND** — the escapades of Li Kuei (nicknamed the Black Whirlwind), one of the 108 heroes of the Liangshan Mountain, from the famous classic *Water Margin*. With Li Shao-chun and Yuan Shih-hai.

May 6 at *People's Theatre*

▲ **STEALING THE MAGIC HERB** and **BATTLE OF WITS** The former is an episode from *The Tale of the White Snake*; the latter is an episode from *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, telling of the battle of wits between the famous military strategists, Chuko Liang and Chou Yu of the third century A.D.

May 7 at *People's Theatre*

▲ **THE BUTTERFLY CUP** A young man falls in love with a poor fisherman's daughter and gives her a "Butterfly Cup" as a betrothal present. When she discovers him currying favour with the high-ranking official who caused her father's death, she returns the cup and breaks the engagement. With Tu Chin-fang.

May 8 at *People's Theatre*

PINGCHU OPERA

▲ **CAPTURING "THE HAWK"** Adapted from Chu Po's new novel, *In the Snowy Forest*. A tale of action and suspense. A People's Liberation Army man in disguise wins his way through the labyrinth of traps laid by the Hawk, a notorious bandit and his followers, to test newcomers to their band. He succeeds in becoming the confidant of the Hawk and then brings about his capture. Produced by the Peking Ping-chu Opera Company.

May 6, 7, 9, 11 at 7:30 p.m., *Min Chu Theatre*
May 11 matinée (1:30 p.m.), *Min Chu Theatre*

▲ **CLEVER GIRL LIU** deals with the theme of marriage based on freedom of choice. The story takes place in the countryside in the days just after liberation, when feudal marriage ideas were still strong.

May 6 at *Ta Chung Theatre*

▲ **LIU CHIEH-MEI** A new pingchu opera version of the true story, now known throughout China, of a former poor peasant who wanted to take the capitalist road. During the recent "great debate" in the countryside, he finally came to realize that the capitalist road is the wrong one.

May 8-10 at *Ta Chung Theatre*

SHAOHSING OPERA

▲ **SHE WON'T STAY HOME, LEAPS AND HOUNDS, FERRY IN A SNOWSTORM** — short Shaohsing operas on contemporary themes depicting new trends in Chinese society today. Programme interspersed with songs and one-act plays. Produced by the Hangchow Shaohsing Opera Company, now on its first visit to Peking.

May 6 & 11 matinée; May 8 & 10 evgs. at *Changan Theatre*

▲ **THE JADE HAIRPIN** tells how a serious misunderstanding between a young couple, brought about by a scheming cousin who wants the bride for himself, is cleared up. Produced by the Hangchow Shaohsing Opera Company.

May 6 & 9 at *Changan Theatre*

THEATRE

▲ **THE TEA HOUSE** By Lao Sheh. First staging of a new play by this well-known playwright. The atmosphere of the old society is subtly reflected through the diverse fates of habitués of a famous old Peking tea house. Directed by Chiao Chuyin and Hsia Shun. Produced by the Peking People's Art Theatre. (For further information on this play, see review on p. 17.)

May 6-9 at *Capital Theatre*

▲ **THE RED STORM** A 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.

May 6-8 at *China Youth Art Theatre*

FILMS

▲ **SOUL OF THE SEA** The crew of a Kuomintang corvette mutinies against its reactionary officers and comes over to liberated China. Produced by the Shanghai Hai Yen Film Studio.

May 6-7 at all major cinemas in Peking

▲ **WE BECAME FRIENDS IN MOSCOW** A coloured documentary film produced by the Soviet Union, recording the 1957 World Youth Festival in Moscow.

May 6-7 *Chiao Tao Kou, Soviet Exhibition Centre Cinema, Hsin Chieh Kou, Sheng Li, Chung Yang*

▲ **THE SHEPHERD JOINS THE ARMY** Too young to join the Eighth Route Army, the little shepherd boy proves, by his daring and resourcefulness in fighting the enemy, that he is well worthy of being a people's fighter. Produced by the Shanghai Hai Yen Film Studio.

May 8-12 *Ta Hua, Children's Cinema, Chiao Tao Kou, Hsin Chung Kuo, Kwangan Men, Peking Theatre, Kwangho Theatre, Peking Workers' Club*

▲ **THE THIEF OF BAGDAD** A tale adapted from the *Arabian Nights*. An Alexander Korda production in colour. Dialogue in original English, with Chinese titles added.

May 8-12 *Soviet Exhibition Centre Cinema, Hsin Chieh Kou, Sheng Li, Chung Yang*

▲ **THE DOVE-FAIRY** A fairy-tale in classical Chinese costume produced by the Hongkong Great Wall Film Studio. A kind-hearted poor peasant nurses a wounded dove back to health, and it later turns into a beautiful girl whom he marries. The dove-fairy also helps the poor peasants to get rid of the wicked landlord.

May 8-12 *Hsin Chung Kuo, Kwangan Men, Kwangho Theatre, Peking Workers' Club*

CONCERTS

▲ **CONCERT OF HUANG TZU'S WORKS** Sponsored by the Union of Chinese Musicians in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the death of this well-known composer and music-educator. Performed by the Central Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. Vocal soloists: Liu Shu-fang and others.

May 9 at the *People's Theatre*

EXHIBITIONS

▲ **RUMANIAN ECONOMIC EXHIBITION** — held at the Soviet Exhibition Centre. Open until May 28.

▲ **EXHIBITION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S WEAK CURRENT INDUSTRY** — at the Sample House of the Trade Department of the Czechoslovak Embassy, 9 Chungnei St., Tung Tan District.

Daily (except Sunday) 2:30-7 p.m.
Closing date: May 17

▲ **EXHIBITION OF CHINESE TRADITIONAL STYLE PAINTINGS, WATER-COLOURS, AND SCULPTURES** — by Wang Ho-wei, Hsiao Shu-fang, Li Hu and Tsung Chi-hsiang. Sponsored by the All-China Artists' Union. Open daily: 9 a.m.-7 p.m. till May 15.

At the *Gallery of the Artists' Union* on Shual Fu Yuan, off Wang Fu Ching St.

▲ **HISTORICAL MUSEUM** — Three new exhibitions opened from May 2 till July. From 8 a.m.-4 p.m. daily.

*Exhibition of Historical Materials Relating to the Sung and Yuan Dynasties

*Exhibition of Mural Paintings from Ancient Chinese Tombs (Reproductions)

*Exhibition of Silk Embroideries of the Ming and Ching Dynasties

▲ **MUSEUM OF ANCIENT ASTRONOMICAL INSTRUMENTS** — see "Museums in Peking" on p. 15.

Open daily (except Monday) 1-4:30 p.m.
Sunday 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

At Chien Kuo Men Gate, Tung Tan District

SPORTS

▲ **NATIONAL FIRST-DIVISION FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS** — May 8: Army "August First" Team vs. Railway Workers' "Locomotive" Team (one of the three trade union teams in the first division). May 11: Peking Team vs. Railway Workers' "Locomotive" Team.

At the *Peking Stadium*

SWIMMING

▲ **INDOOR POOL** of the Peking Gym.

Now open:

Tue.-Sat. 6-7:30 a.m. 1-3 p.m.

Wed.-Thur. 7-9 p.m.

Sat. 7-8:30 p.m. 9-10:30 p.m.

Admission with medical certificate,