

# REVIEW

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## STEEL BATTLE WON

Vice-Premier Po I-po reviews China's record achievement in producing 10.7 million tons of steel ahead of schedule (p. 6).

## Great Soviet Plan to Build Communism

A discussion of the significance of the new Soviet Seven-Year Plan (p. 9).

## Commodity Production in China Today

A theoretical analysis of commodity production in the present stage of China's economic development (p. 12).

## China's Stand on the Berlin Question

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*Literature and Other Cultural Features*

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Peking Review Index, 1958

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***Just off the press:***

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CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF  
THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHINA**

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The present edition of *Selected Poems from "The Goddesses"* contains two poetic dramas and thirty-two poems, with a short biography of the author and a preface which Kuo Mo-jo wrote especially for the English edition.

68 pp.

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# PEKING REVIEW

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NEWS AND VIEWS

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## Rural Finance and Trade

A JOINT decision by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and the State Council to improve the administration of financial and trade work in the rural areas was issued last week. It represents another important step in strengthening the people's communes.

As explained in the decision, the change to be made is based on the principle of centralized leadership and separate management at different levels. All state-run organizations in the rural areas in charge of food, commerce, finance and banking are to be placed under the management of the people's communes. In other words, they are to become part and parcel of the people's communes, subject to the unified direction of the communes as well as to the business leadership of the higher financial and trade departments. The only exceptions are those organizations serving several communes or covering a still wider scope.

According to the decision, after these financial and trade bodies in the rural areas are placed under the control of the people's commune, they must accept the unified guidance of the state in matters of policy, planning and in the administration of circulating funds. To be more specific, the people's communes, in directing the work of these organizations, must carry out the state policy relating to market prices, planned purchase and planned supply and see to it that circulating funds turned over to them by the state are used for circulation purposes in industry, agriculture and trade, and not for capital construction or other purposes.

The people's communes, after taking over the management of the financial and trade work in the countryside, are held responsible for collecting the related taxes and the proceeds from the state enterprises placed under commune administration. After deducting from the total receipts the expenses formerly defrayed by the state, the balance is to be turned over by the people's communes to the state.

Delegating the management of financial and trade work in the rural districts to the people's communes is necessitated by the rapid expansion of people's communes, which has given rise to a new situation in production, distribution, exchange, and consumption.

As clearly pointed out in the decision, the new situation is reflected in commercial work in the following manner: purchase and supply have become more concentrated and the free market has virtually ceased to exist. The commercial departments have much to do in commodity circulation but at the same time they are taking an ever-increasing part in handling the distribution of products within the framework of the communes. In financial work, industrial and business taxes based primarily on the circulation of commodities are out of place. So far as banking is concerned, the scope of the transfer of accounts for settlement has broadened and cash transactions have relatively dropped. The bank branches in the rural areas are steadily becoming clearing houses serving the people's communes.

Under these circumstances, it has become urgently necessary to readjust the administration of financial and trade work in the countryside with a view to reinforcing the people's communes and stimulating industrial and agricultural production. The new decision has been adopted precisely to serve this purpose.

# ROUND THE WEEK

## Two Dates

September 1: A call to reach the revised steel target for 1958 of 10.7 million tons from the Enlarged Session of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party was issued to the people.

December 19: According to statistics compiled by the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry, by this date steel production had reached 10.73 million tons—30,000 tons over the top 12 days ahead of schedule.

## The Road Ahead Is Clear

On the evening of December 18, Lu Shu-lin, member of the Changsintien People's Commune in the southwestern suburb of Peking, tuned in to Radio Peking for the broadcast of the resolution on the people's communes adopted by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party (*Peking Review*, No. 43). He listened to the full text a second time later in the night and remarked to his wife: "Our commune is in pretty good shape right now. If we proceed along the way pointed out for us by the Party, our life will surely be far more prosperous." He was voicing the sentiment of people's commune members throughout the country.

On the morning of December 19, millions were avidly reading the morning papers that carried the full text of the resolution or listening to broadcasts of it. As these lines are written, the entire nation is studying and discussing this historic document.

In the course of the discussions, some of the confusions that exist in people's mind are being cleared up. In the Changsintien People's Commune mentioned earlier, some members were of the opinion that cash wages could be reduced so that the commune would be able to supply the members with free food, clothing, housing, and all expenses of birth, sickness, old age, and burial. Now after the discussions, they have agreed that it is too early to do so. Commodity production which had been somewhat neglected in this commune is now receiving greater attention.

Lo Chen-tang, a member of the Heping (Peace) People's Commune near Peking, spoke of a common misconception. He was so heartened by the introduction of free food and clothing in his commune that he thought it was already communism. At a discussion meeting, however,

Lo said the Communist Party resolution opened his eyes. Although the present is much better than the past, life under communism will be incomparably richer.

The rich experiences summed up in the resolution and the theoretical clarity with which it fortifies the nation, pave the way for still greater achievements by the people's communes in production and in raising the living standards of the people in the days ahead.

## Check-Up in the Communes

*Dazibao*—written opinions in big Chinese characters posted publicly for everybody to read, a potent means of free expression that grew out of the rectification campaign—are posted in many of the people's communes today. A new round of airing of views is taking place in China's countryside as work to check up on the people's communes gets under way in the spirit of the resolution of the recent plenary session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party.

A glimpse at the Chuandi administrative district of the Hongqi People's Commune in Shansi Province gives some idea of how the work is done.

To closely integrate the check-up with production work, the Communist Party branch set up a leading organ which is taking care of both. Full airing of views is encouraged. In a single month, 15,000 *dazibao* were posted. While lauding the democratic style of work of the administration and most of the leading personnel, members criticized the few who tended to depend on orders rather than persuasion. When this question of the style of work of the cadres was brought up for discussion, some of the leading personnel came forward with self-criticism and the Party branch presented two typical cases: Wang Hsiao-hsien, a production brigade leader who ate, lived and worked with the members and enjoyed their full confidence and Ku Chishan, another brigade leader who kept himself aloof from the members. Through comparison, everybody gained a deeper understanding of why the mass line of keeping close to the masses and relying on their initiative must be observed and why centralism must be based on democracy.

Welfare problems came to light both through discussions and from visits to the homes of the members. At the suggestion of the members, measures were taken to improve the services of the community dining-room and the com-

mune's carts were dispatched to bring in coal for heating as the winter season set in. Welfare regulations were drawn up on the basis of thorough discussions among the members.

In accordance with the requirements for the development of industry, agriculture, animal husbandry and the rural side-lines, labour organization was improved and a system of responsibility was introduced.

Special groups were formed to study and improve the distribution and the financial system of the commune and to draw up a long-term production plan for 1959-1962. These were then brought to the members for discussion and approval.

The check-up work not only brought better order to the district but also served as a direct spur to the initiative of the members. While checking up was in progress, harvesting was completed in record time and more than 31 million *jin* of manure was collected. Production is now going on more smoothly than ever.

## And Now Light Industry

"One horse sets the pace, ten thousand horses gallop." This is the current saying in China describing the way steel leads the advance of the other branches of the economy. As machine-building, coal and electric power followed close on the heels of steel, light industry didn't mark time either. It is estimated that, compared with 1957, the total output value of 30 major products of light industry this year increased by about 50 per cent, cotton cloth increased by 27 per cent, sugar by 36 per cent and alcohol by 90 per cent. During the year, many new products were made. The paper-making industry alone turned out 162 new types, many of which are up to international standards.

The success is attributed to the policy of "walking on two legs." In the case of light industry, emphasis is laid on medium-sized and, particularly, small plants using indigenous methods in production mostly run by the people's communes. During the year, no less than 2 million medium and small light industrial plants and workshops (not including new textile mills) were set up all over the country. More than 300,000 of these are now working regularly all year round. Over 4,000 small sugar refineries, each processing 5 tons of sugar beet or more a day, were added.

The initiative of the rank and file workers in the light industrial enterprises resulted in numerous technical innovations. Improvements were made in all

phases of paper-making. The way to overall mechanization and partial automation has been found by our silicate industry. An important contribution is the use of ceramics as substitutes for steel in the manufacture of many types of machines.

With the consolidation of the people's communes, the rich harvests and the mounting demand resulting from higher income, the stage is set for light industry to continue its strides forward next year — on both legs.

## Peasants' Victory Conference

Peasants from all parts of the country are now in Peking attending the largest conference of its kind ever held. The official name is the National Conference of Outstanding Units in the Socialist Construction of Agriculture. It opened on December 25. Some 6,000 delegates have come to the nation's capital to sum up the experiences of the big leap in agriculture, to plan even greater advances next year and to celebrate the record-breaking fruits of their labour this year: the doubling of grain and cotton yields and the birth of the people's communes.

A survey of China's agricultural achievements in 1958 and the prospects for 1959 will appear in the next issue of our magazine.

## Shanghai's Three-in-One Plant

A considerable stir was caused among Shanghai's science and technology circles when scientists at the Institute of Metallurgy and Ceramics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences were challenged by workers of a local plant to friendly competition in the trial manufacture of new alloys.

The surprise deepened when it was found that those who challenged the country's leading scientists were some 170 people working in crowded workshops with nondescript equipment they themselves had made from scrap materials. Most of these workers were new hands who had come to the Tongren Alloy Plant in the last couple of years with only a secondary school education behind them. Not so long ago, all they could turn out was three types of products.

But the workers weren't kidding. Before year's end, they acquitted themselves by successfully producing 59 new alloy products including seamless nickel tubes, an alloy of silver and tungsten and a cadmium alloy urgently needed by the country's rising modern technology. Many of the new products are on the U.S. "embargo" list. They are now

produced in such quantities and to such quality standards that they are not only meeting domestic needs but are being exported as well.

The secret of this success is the integration of production, study and scientific research. But it wasn't an easy affair.

In response to the call of the Chinese Communist Party in May to do away with blind faith in authority and to act boldly, the workers at the Tongren plant formed small research groups and established laboratories in the workshops. Later, a research centre was founded.

But the workers soon found their venture in scientific research seriously hampered by lack of general knowledge. When in August, the Communist Party branch proposed to establish a spare-time college, the workers responded to the idea so well that it was brought into being in four days at no cost whatsoever. Workshops and the dining-room were turned into class rooms; the Party secretary, the director of the plant, technicians, administrative personnel and the few veteran workers formed the teaching staff. All workers were enrolled in the three departments of powder metallurgy, metal fabrication and electrical engineering. The outstanding feature of this college is that its curriculum is closely integrated with production in the plant. Theoretical knowledge is applied to solving production problems, increasing output, raising quality and the trial production of new products. Effective and quick results were achieved this way.

The Tongren plant has become a factory, a college and a research institute all rolled in one. It is expected that 90 per cent of the workers under 45 years of age will graduate from the spare-time college in about four years. After full airing of views, the plant has set the following conditions for graduation: 1—consistent fulfilment of the production plan; 2—ten technical innovations that increase efficiency by at least 100 per cent; 3—successful trial manufacture of at least 5 new products; 4—the quality of three products raised to international levels; 5—a graduation thesis.

## Food for the New Year Feasts

With the New Year drawing near and the Spring Festival (Chinese Lunar New Year, February 8) not so far away, preparations are under way for truly gala

celebrations. On such occasions, good food is a must. Speaking at a meeting of Communist Party secretaries in charge of finance and trade in the provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions on December 17, Vice-Premier Li Hsien-nien called on the finance and trading departments to ensure abundant supplies of diverse foods so that the people can eat to their hearts' content in celebrating the achievements of this year's big leap forward and the first year of the people's communes.

Communist Party secretaries are personally directing the campaign to step up production, purchase and transport of non-staple foods. In Kiangsi Province, 1,200,000 people, or 20 per cent of the labour force, are engaged in shock work, for a period starting now and ending next January, in pig breeding, poultry raising, vegetable growing, fishing, collecting fire wood and making charcoal. Things like glutinous rice which is made into tasty New Year delicacies, peanuts, sesame seeds, soya beans and rice noodles are being supplied in increasing quantities. People in Hopei Province are making noodles, other foods and wine. In Kwangtung Province, where food is free in all the people's communes, vegetables are grown on such a vast scale that every commune member will soon be consuming more than 1 *jin* of vegetables every day.

In the meantime, the transport drive (*Peking Review*, No. 42, p. 4) continues. At a telephone conference jointly sponsored by the Ministries of Railways and Commerce on December 22, a decision was made that all non-staple foods and daily necessities that reached the railway stations before New Year must be shipped to their destinations without delay. Food grains, live pigs, frozen meat and delicious tangerines are being rushed to Wuhan, Shanghai and other cities from Szechuan. Special trains are bringing vegetables, pork and mutton from Heilungkiang Province to Peking and Tientsin.



A woodcut in colour designed for the New Year  
By Huang Yung-yu



# 10.7 Million Tons of Steel: A Great Target Fulfilled

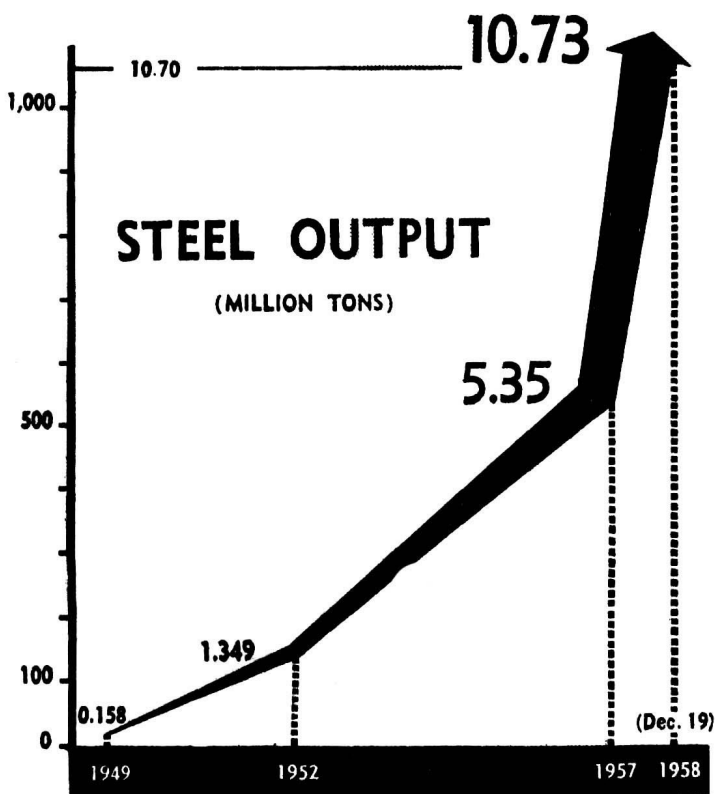
Vice-Premier Po I-po Reviews the Record Achievement

**C**HINA produced 10.73 million tons of steel from January 1 to December 19, 1958. The year's target of 10.7 million tons was reached ahead of time and it means that China has doubled her steel output in a single year.

Commenting on this unprecedented success in steel production, Po I-po, Vice-Premier and Chairman of the State Economic Commission, described in a press interview this year's general leap forward on the industrial front with steel as the key, and the big bumper harvest and the people's commune movement on the agricultural front as two events of great historic significance in China's economic life. The following are excerpts from the interview.

This call issued by the Chinese Communist Party in August to produce 10.7 million tons of steel in 1958 was taken up by the people throughout the country with enthusiasm, soon touching off a gigantic campaign for iron and steel involving all Communist Party members and all the people.

Steel output has been growing at an amazing rate in the few months since last September. Taking the average steel monthly output between January and August as 100, the figure rose to 178 in September, 341 in October and 440 in November.



The rapid rise in steel output was closely connected with a sharp rise in pig iron. At the very outset of the mass movement to make iron and steel, the Central Committee of the Party clearly pointed out that the key to turning out 10.7 million tons of steel was the production of pig iron. Thanks to hard efforts all round, a very big increase in the output of pig iron was achieved in September and October. This ensured that the needs of steel-making would be met.

### Big—Small—Mass

Around October, the Central Committee of the Party pointed out in good time that the big, modern enterprises should make further efforts to mobilize the masses, tap their latent productive capacity, improve smelting techniques and raise the output; while in local, small and indigenous-style production of iron and steel, the stress should not be on quantity alone but especially on quality. All over the country, Communist Party committees and metallurgical departments adopted various effective steps in this respect, with outstanding results. The large iron and steel enterprises raised their output and quality considerably; and the pig iron produced by indigenous methods gave great support to the production of big, modern plants. At the same time, the use of iron and steel produced by indigenous methods has been continually extended. Nodular cast iron, rolled steel and machines are now made from these products. This, to a certain extent, has prepared the material basis for the industrialization of the people's communes.

The leaping progress in the iron and steel industry has not only pushed forward all departments of heavy industry but stimulated all branches of the entire national economy.

It can now be estimated that the output of machine-tools this year will be about 3.2 times that of last year, coal output will increase more than twofold, chemical fertilizers by over 60 per cent, electricity and crude oil by more than 40 per cent, cement by more than 30 per cent and cotton yarn by about 43 per cent. The rate of industrial growth this year is the highest ever recorded in Chinese history. In absolute figures, the increase in the output of many products has surpassed the total increase during the First Five-Year Plan.

### Source of Success

The success in steel and in industry as a whole is first of all attributed to the fact that the Communist Party made a timely shift in the main emphasis of leadership from agriculture to industry and carried through the

policy of effecting "an overall leap forward with steel as the key."

Facts have shown that the policy of "an overall leap forward with steel as the key" is correct because the growth of our industry depends to a very great degree on the growth of iron and steel and machine-building, which are the two great industrial "marshals," the foundation and nucleus of modern industry. The growth of machine-building, in its turn, depends on the growth of the iron and steel industry. Only after the iron and steel industry has developed will the machine-building industry be able to obtain sufficient material and turn out machines and equipment in large quantities for the further development of other industries.

Industrial production, like everything else, must have its key and ordinary branches. Close attention should be given to the key branches while due care is also extended to the ordinary ones. Without emphasis on the former, the latter cannot be developed in the best way. If close attention is given to the key branches at the expense of the ordinary ones, there will be dislocations in the national economy. We have already gained some experience in this respect and will gain more in the future. Following the big progress in iron and steel this year, fairly big advances have also been made in electricity, basic chemicals, communications and transport, but they are still unable to meet the needs of the development of the national economy. This sort of thing is not anything to be surprised at; it is an inevitable outcome of rapid development. We are taking positive steps to adjust and solve the problems that arise from it.

The second important reason is that we have launched a mass movement on the industrial front and given full scope to the initiative of the masses in running industry. Mass movements are needed both in small, indigenous-style production units and in big, modern plants.

The policy that the whole Party and the whole people should run industry has been implemented in our country this year, particularly in the second half of the year. Tens of millions of workers, peasants and soldiers, and of students, functionaries and other city people took part in iron and steel production or other industrial work. Geological prospecting was conducted on an unprecedented scale throughout the nation, and many mineral deposits were discovered. Great numbers of iron-smelting and steel-making furnaces—and of small coal pits, coking plants, oil refineries, chemical fertilizer plants and machine-building plants—were built all over the country. All this accounts for the rapid rise in the output of iron, steel and other products.

The big, modern plants have also mobilized the masses of their workers in the drive for steel, launched the technical revolution, tapped their latent productive capacity, and have thus played a decisive role in the fulfilment of this year's national iron and steel targets ahead of time.

### Tasks in 1959

The coming year will be one of decisive significance in the "three years' hard battle." With regard to steel production, we should now do the following:

First, close attention should be given to the production of rolled steel and the manufacture of steel-rolling equipment. From now on, every place and particularly



# STEEL MAKES HISTORY

It took **CHINA**

**353 DAYS**

to increase its steel output from 5.35 million tons to 10.73 million tons

(Jan. 1, 1958 - Dec. 19, 1958)

And it took

**U.S.A.**

**7 YEARS** to increase its steel output from 5 million tons to 10.81 million tons (1892-1899)

**Britain**

**32 YEARS** to increase its steel output from 5.11 million tons to 10.02 million tons (1903-1935)

**Japan**

**20 YEARS** to increase its steel output from 5.22 million tons to 11.11 million tons (1936-1956)

**Germany**

**8 YEARS** to increase its steel output from 5.09 million tons to 10.06 million tons (1897-1905)

**France**

**29 YEARS** to increase its steel output from 5.3 million tons to 10.9 million tons (1923-1952)

the key iron and steel enterprises should launch a mass movement centring on the increased output of rolled steel. By carrying out the technical revolution and tapping latent productive capacity to the full, the output of rolled steel will be considerably raised in the first quarter of 1959. At the same time, machine-building departments should speed up the production of steel-rolling equipment.

Secondly, close attention should be given to increasing the production of iron ore, coal, coke and fire-resistant materials, so that iron and steel enterprises will be assured of sufficient raw materials of good quality for the production of good-quality iron and steel. This calls for atten-



tion by the metallurgical and coal-mining departments to the speeding of work on these links, and by machine-building departments to accelerating the manufacture of mining equipment.

Thirdly, the check-up and consolidation of the small, indigenous-style iron and steel production units should continue. Though this will take a fairly long time, the first group of small iron and steel bases should be established and consolidated, and manpower should be rationally arranged and used in the first quarter of the coming year. This work should be combined with the present task of education, check-up and consolidation in the people's communes.

In establishing bases everything possible should be done wherever conditions are mature to enable the small and indigenous production units to develop into small integrated iron and steel enterprises which combine indigenous and modern production methods, like some of

those in Shangcheng, Honan Province, and Macheng, Hupeh Province.

Fourthly, further efforts will be made to improve the quality of iron and steel, solve certain technical problems with regard especially to the use in modern steel furnaces of iron made by indigenous methods, and the use of iron and steel made by indigenous methods for a wider range of products.

Fifthly, work will be done to improve transport, so that iron and steel production will get the supplies it needs. Iron made by indigenous methods and destined for the steel furnaces will be delivered to the big plants on time.

Sixthly, since winter has come, the living and working conditions of the big army of iron and steel makers should be properly taken care of everywhere. Normal production during the winter should be ensured.

# THE NATION GREETES STEEL VICTORY

by OUR CORRESPONDENT

ON the evening of December 21, Peking's Central People's Broadcasting Station alerted the nation to an announcement of special importance: China had surpassed her target for steel output ahead of time: by the 19th of the month she had produced 10,730,000 tons of steel.

The news spread with lightning speed. On the following day papers frontpaged it with banner headlines in red, illustrations and charts. The nation rejoiced and with good reason.

## Everybody's Business

10,700,000! This unusual figure has been a household word in China over the past few months blazoned on walls, and in the press. Four months ago, at its Peitaiho meeting, the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party called on the nation to double last year's steel output by the end of this year. The whole nation got busy. While the big and small steel works of the country made a major effort to step up output, myriads of small, "indigenous style" furnaces appeared in villages and towns. Steel-making became everybody's business. At the height of the drive you could see the glow of iron and steel making furnaces in the mountains and on the plains, in city and countryside, in the courtyards of office buildings and schools and on university campuses. On empty lots on housing estates housewives took to "cooking" steel. The talk was of the relative merits of brushwood furnace or the modified puddling furnace. The jargon of the steel-maker became everyday talk. This was the Party's mass line in industry in action. Steel was being made not only by workers, but by peasants, soldiers, students, government office workers, writers, nurse-maids . . . by men and women from every walk of life. Millions of others threw themselves into

the jobs of digging and bringing ore, scrap and fuel to the furnaces by rail and water, lorry and bullock cart. No means were overlooked to keep the furnaces going. Raw materials came up in hand-carts and wheelbarrows. Young Pioneers scurried around finding scrap in the most unlikely places. These were the days when the Party also called for the combining of mental and physical labour and implementation of the principle of integrating education with productive labour in the schools. Steel was the catalyst. Furnaces started in government offices turned pen-pushers into puddlers. Every school and university in the land started its steel furnace. A communist spirit of co-operation and ways of thinking was in the ascendant. People who had never seen an industrial plant in their lives became steel-making enthusiasts over-night. Party committees and groups led the way. The people learnt what the Party meant by "running industry by the whole Party and the whole nation" and, as the figures rose, they saw what it could achieve.

A young steel-worker of the Penchi No. 1 Iron and Steel Plant told reporters: "We've named our blast furnace the Young Idea because we resuscitated this 40-year-old furnace with our own hands after liberation. This year we revised our production target eight times and raised our annual output from 9,000 tons to 70,000 tons."

Peasants were no less enthusiastic in the drive for steel. Liang Hsun-wen, an agricultural labour model of Hupeh, and his whole family went into iron-smelting. He himself wielded the rabble at their home-made furnace while his father worked the bellows; his son crushed the ore while his wife brought it to the furnace in an old rice basket. They turned out well over 200 jin a day. And the Liangs were only one of the many millions of peasant households who turned industrial workers and went into iron and steel production.

China's women seized the opportunity to show what they could do in this "man-sized" job. There is a couplet about a furnace run by women in Huangmei:

Put aside the knitting needles;  
Take the rabble up!  
There's no trouble that can daunt us  
Running furnaces for steel!  
Gird on armour, mount your steed like  
Heroines of yore!  
End the old time superstitions,  
Women, generals of steel!

Women in the country, besides working alongside their men, have also built no one knows how many furnaces of their own.

This was the pattern of things at the height of the campaign: a new giant steel-making open hearth furnace at Anshan pouring out 1,300 tons to 1,500 tons a day; countless small "lampshade," reverberatory or other types of furnaces of fire brick and clay, producing just a few hundred and more *jin* a day and each of them stepping up output, improving methods, adding to the total, pound by pound and ton by ton. The Shanghai No. 3 Steel Mill's converter shop increased daily output from an average of 300 tons to a high of 622 tons a day.

A corner-lot furnace that began as a midget grew in a few weeks to an efficiently run, storey-high converter.

When the news of victory was broadcast, the whole nation rejoiced with a sense of personal participation. The news reached the Anshan Iron and Steel Works that night, with the rataplan of drums the clash of cymbals and hiss of fire-crackers. There was dancing and singing. Workers of the first night shift of the No. 2 Steel Mill celebrated by turning out an extra heat of steel. In Peking, 6,000 students and faculty members of the Institute of Iron and Steel held a flying celebration meet-



A worker's drawing. "The Dragon Dance for 10.7 Million Tons of Steel"  
By Wang Chang-shan

ing at which they pledged to give another boost to output and quality in the fine steel mills they have built. In Shanghai, workers of the No. 5 Steel Mill greeted the news by repairing a furnace in ten hours instead of the twenty originally scheduled. In the Wuhan Iron and Steel Works, China's second metallurgical giant, workers of the No. 1 blast furnace had already achieved a daily output of 2,426 tons of pig iron; they pledged to raise this still higher. In Paotow, where China's new giant steel centre is under construction, tens of thousands of builders took steps to speed construction for another great leap next year. People throughout the country celebrated with enormous enthusiasm and confidence that another mass effort will ensure fulfilment of the next year's target—18 million tons.

## Seven-Year Plan

# Great Soviet Plan to Build Communism

by YU CHAO-LI

Following is a translation of an article that appeared in "Hongqi" (Red Flag), No. 14, December 16, 1958, theoretical fortnightly published by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party. — Ed.

THE stress at the Twenty-first Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union will be on discussion of the Seven-Year Plan for the Development of the National Economy of the U.S.S.R. The theses of Comrade N. S. Khrushchov's report on the plan have now been published. This is an important, historic event. It signifies that the great Soviet Union has entered a new era, in which the construction of communist society is unfolding. The Chinese people, building socialism under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, are im-

mensely inspired by this gigantic Soviet plan to build communism.

The level of development of productive forces which the Soviet Union has achieved through the heroic struggle of its people in the last 41 years has made it possible to put forward this grand task of building communism. The Soviet Union, the Seven-Year Plan provides, will develop industry on the basis of the latest technical and scientific achievements and expand agriculture on the basis of comprehensive mechanization and electrification. The total value of its industrial output will increase by 80 per cent, agriculture by 70 per cent, while investment in capital construction will be 80 per cent more than in the past seven years. National income will increase 62 to 65 per cent;

workers' wages and the real income of the collective farmers by 40 per cent. The country will have the shortest working day and working week in the world. One out of every five persons will be studying in school. When the Seven-Year Plan is fulfilled, the Soviet Union will overtake Britain and West Germany, the most advanced capitalist countries in Europe, in industrial output per capita. It will also overtake the United States in aggregate output of some of the most important industrial products, and in per capita output of the most essential farm products. Five years or so after 1965, the Soviet Union will catch up with and overtake the United States in average per capita production. By that time the U.S.S.R. will lead the world in production, both absolute and per capita, and its people will have the highest living standard in the world.

In the Soviet Seven-Year Plan one can see a blueprint of transition from socialism to communism:

Preparing the material conditions for the transition to communism, the Soviet Union will make a new leap forward in developing the socialist economy towards communism. On the basis of priority for heavy industry, the development of various branches of the national economy will be energetically pushed forward. Simultaneous with the development of the national economy at top speed the necessary balance of the various productive branches will be brought about. Industrial growth will be based on the latest technical and scientific achievements and there will be a big increase of iron and steel as well as non-ferrous metals in keeping with the mounting demands of the national economy. The development of the chemical industry will be speeded by the latest scientific and technical achievements. The machine-building industry will move forward from complete mechanization to electronic automation and will install a new system for the production of machines. Communications and transport will be technically renovated in a basic way. Capital construction will be expanded on an unprecedented scale and further large-scale industrialization of building work will be ensured. Together with the rapid development of heavy industry the output of light industry, the food industry and household goods will be greatly increased. While the productive forces of the European regions of the country will be developed, special attention will be paid to further exploiting the rich resources of the eastern regions. Simultaneously with the intensive development of industry, agricultural development will be stepped up further. Farm yields per unit area will be raised. A scientific system of farming will be implemented and rich, stable harvests of all crops will be guaranteed to meet the needs of the state and people. The Soviet Union will thus steadily improve the welfare of its people, supply their growing material and cultural needs and enable them to lead a better, fuller life on the basis of the development of socialist production and the growth of the productivity of labour.

**I**N preparing the spiritual conditions for the transition to communism, the Seven-Year Plan provides for the further raising of the communist consciousness and initiative of the working masses; the education of the people in the spirit of collectivism, profound love for labour and a sense of social responsibility, internationalism and

patriotism and highly principled observance of the morality of the new society; the uprooting of the remnants of capitalism in the minds of people and the launching of uncompromising struggles against the antagonistic bourgeois ideology — so that communist construction can become a process full of vitality and originality, in which millions of people are consciously engaged. The theses also stipulate that the educational system will be improved and education will be developed on the principle of integrating education with productive labour: middle school education in the cities and countryside will be greatly expanded; the network of evening schools for workers and young people in the countryside will be enlarged; the system of pupils taking part in productive labour in enterprises, farms and workshops will be extended to all primary and middle schools; all children will go to nurseries, kindergartens and boarding schools as quickly as possible so that the task of giving the younger generation a communist education will be more successfully fulfilled; the training of experts who have a higher or secondary technical education will be further extended and improved. In the course of socialist construction, the Soviet Union has succeeded in training large numbers of new people with a communist outlook; in the future it will go a step further by ensuring for every member of society the overall development of his or her physical and mental faculties as a major condition for transition to a communist society.

**T**HE theses of Comrade Khrushchov's report also point out the most important condition for the transition to communism in the Soviet Union, i.e., while the social productive forces are to be developed further, socialist relations of production will also be improved so as to bring collective farm ownership closer to the ownership by the entire people. In this field a series of concrete measures will be taken: They are to further develop the collective farm system; to extend the links between the collective farms in production; to further organize industrial enterprises, building enterprises and other economic enterprises by their joint efforts; to build by their joint efforts power stations, roads, water conservancy works, enterprises for processing and storing farm produce, schools, hospitals, clubs and so on. With the development of production in the collective farms, the side-line occupations carried on individually by collective farmers will gradually lose their significance. The Soviet state farms will play a far greater role in agricultural production, and they will develop in the direction of more and more men and women workers being drawn into direct participation in management, providing an example for the collective farms to follow.

The great Soviet Union opened the way to socialism for mankind, now it is again showing mankind the way to communism. Under the correct leadership of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union headed by Comrade N. S. Khrushchov, the great Seven-Year Plan has been worked out and the Marxist-Leninist principles of scientific communism are turned into concrete practice in communist construction. This practice, which is of great historic significance, will certainly provide the international communist movement with valuable experience for the advance towards communism, enriching the treasury house of Marxism-Leninism. People can see



from the theses of the report how the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, basing itself on the fundamental Marxist-Leninist principles of the laws of social development, relying on the enthusiasm, creativeness and initiative of the broad masses, is correctly solving the question of preparing conditions for the transition to communist society; it is undertaking a series of measures of large-scale communist construction and further enhancing the communist consciousness of the broad masses, so as to eliminate, step by step, the differences between worker and peasant, town and countryside and mental and physical labour. Mankind's communist ideal is no longer an imaginary picture of a distant future.

**P**EOPLE can see clearly from this plan the great vitality of the new-born socialist system, its unrivalled superiority over the decaying capitalist system. We of the socialist camp are firm advocates of peaceful competition between socialism and capitalism. The Soviet Union is now engaged in a contest to "overtake the United States" while China is engaged in a contest to "overtake Britain." The other fraternal socialist countries are also actively developing their national economies and engaged in contests with capitalist countries. The solemn task now confronting the countries of the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union is to win by the biggest margin of time in this competition. By the time the Soviet Union fulfils its Seven-Year Plan, the total value of industrial output of the socialist camp which now accounts for around one-third of the world's total, will exceed one half of it. This will be a decisive socialist victory, of great historic significance, in the competition between the world's two systems. Socialism will inevitably beat capitalism in peaceful competition. This is more evident than ever following the publication of the Soviet Seven-Year Plan. And that is why the imperialists are very much shocked by the Soviet Seven-Year Plan. The Soviet Union, they say, has issued a "very alarming" "peaceful challenge." Truly, it is just that: a "peaceful challenge." We of the socialist camp have full confidence in overtaking capitalism through peaceful competition. Socialism will inevitably replace capitalism. This is an objective law, independent of human will.

The socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union is the strongest bulwark of world peace and human progress. The peaceful building of a new life which the socialist camp is undertaking conforms fully to the interests of people all over the world who love peace and freedom. The policy of peace is an inalienable part of socialism, just as the policy of aggression and war is an inalienable part of imperialism. The Soviet Seven-Year Plan will greatly augment the might of the socialist camp, greatly strengthen the front of the world's peace-loving forces and place new insurmountable obstacles in the way of the imperialist warmongers. The publication of the Soviet Seven-Year Plan further proves that the relationship of the forces in the world today has come to a new turning point in which the forces of socialism and of national revolution supported by socialism have prevailed over the imperialist forces. Imperialism is on its last legs, and hastening the digging of its own grave by its policy of aggression and war. The socialist camp and people throughout the world who love peace and freedom are all opposed to a new world war, and their joint

strength is now great enough to prevent war. If imperialism dares launch a new world war, it will only hasten the total destruction of the imperialist system.

As Comrade Khrushchov has declared in the theses, the world socialist system is the greatest achievement and pride of the working people of all lands. The socialist world system is one entity, we are closely united by common ideals and common interests. The relationship among the socialist countries is that they share the same destiny, breathe the same air, respect and trust each other, help and inspire each other, work together for the economic and cultural upsurge of the socialist world. The Soviet Seven-Year Plan provides that the Soviet Union will carry on all-round economic co-operation with all socialist countries; and this is a full manifestation of the great spirit of proletarian internationalism of the Soviet people led by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Undoubtedly, the Soviet Seven-Year Plan will serve as an impetus consolidating the solidarity of the socialist camp and augmenting its might. The Soviet Union will always be an advanced example for the proletariat and working people of all lands; it is the centre of the unity of our socialist camp and the international communist movement. One can find fresh, convincing proof of this in the great Soviet programme for building communism.

The magnificent achievements of communist construction in the Soviet Union provide brilliant proof of the great vitality of Marxism-Leninism; they confirm the correctness of the common laws of socialist revolution and construction as summed up at the Moscow meeting of the Communist and Workers' Parties held last year. The modern revisionists, as represented by the Tito group, try vainly to slander and distort Marxism-Leninism, negate the common laws of socialist revolution and construction, belittle the great role the Soviet Union plays in the international communist movement, and split the unity of the big fraternal family of socialist countries. All these efforts have achieved nothing except to expose thoroughly their disgusting faces as traitors to the working class who have thus placed themselves outside the socialist camp and the ranks of the international communist movement. Comrade Khrushchov has rightly said that the Seven-Year Plan is a fatal blow to bourgeois ideology, international reformism and revisionism.

**W**E Chinese Communists and Chinese people rejoice that the gigantic work of the Soviet people in building communism has made tremendous contributions both to the great cause of international communism and world peace and to the cause of human progress. The great programme for building communism presented by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union is definitely one of the major historic documents of contemporary times; it will shine brightly in the great cause of the world's working people who are creating mankind's new history. Since the Great October Socialist Revolution, the Soviet people, led by the Communist

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Party of the Soviet Union, have always been the vanguard of the proletariat and the working people of the world; they are marching in the most advanced detachment of the people of the world, attracting and inspiring them by their brilliant example in building socialism and communism.

We Chinese people are carrying on our great socialist construction under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party. Illumined by the general line for socialist construction—"Let's go all out, aim high and get greater, quicker, better and more economical results to build socialism"—brought forward by the Party's Central Committee and Comrade Mao Tse-tung, the building of socialism by the Chinese people is moving forward at a high speed hitherto unknown in Chinese history. The Chinese people, however, are not content with their achievements gained thus far. China was originally "poor" and "blank" with a very weak economic foundation. The level of social productive forces and the people's living standards are still low in our country. The immediate task of the Chinese people is to speed up socialist construction, to build China into a powerful socialist state with a modern industry, modern agriculture and modern science and culture, and also to prepare conditions for future transition to communism. The Chinese people in

their struggle to build socialism have received many-sided fraternal aid from the Soviet Union. With such a brilliant example as the Soviet Union in front of us, our own cause can be carried on more successfully. In his *On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People*, Comrade Mao Tse-tung points out that we still lack experience in economic construction and need to get more experience and correctly reflect the objective laws. The Soviet experience is extremely valuable to us. Comrade Mao Tse-tung says: "In order to turn our country into an industrial power, we must learn conscientiously from the advanced experience of the Soviet Union." It is the firm and irrevocable principle of the Chinese people that we must learn from the Soviet Union, seriously study Soviet experiences in socialist and communist construction and creatively make use of these experiences in the light of the special characteristics of our country; this is also an important condition for the speeding of our country's socialist construction. It is for this reason that we must study conscientiously the Seven-Year Plan for the Development of National Economy of the U.S.S.R. put forward by Comrade Khrushchov, and conscientiously learn from the Soviet experiences in socialist and communist construction in order to build socialism in our country faster and better.

## Economic Theory

# Commodity Production in China Today

by HU SHENG

**China is at present promoting the development of socialist commodity production. In the coming period, there will be a considerable expansion of commodity exchange between the state and the people's communes and among the communes. This will, in turn, stimulate the development of production and raise the living standards of the people.**

**S**INCE capitalist ownership of the means of production has ceased to exist in our country, capitalist commodity production in China has also been put out of existence. What prevails now in our country is socialist commodity production which is based on socialist ownership by the whole people and socialist collective ownership.

Various social conditions in the socialist system have brought about the inevitable emergence and growth of socialist commodity production, which will die out only with the disappearance of these social conditions. It is absolutely wrong to think that commodity production is no longer needed now in our country and that both commodities and money can be eliminated at the present time. Commodity production is not only needed in China at present, but its development has to be greatly promoted. Of course we mean the development of socialist commodity production, and not the development of capitalist commodity production.

There are quite a few questions, both practical and theoretical, connected with commodity production under socialism which are worth studying. Here I will only enter into a preliminary discussion of several questions on present-day commodity production in our country.

### **Are People's Communes Self-sufficient Units?**

What are the effects of the establishment of the people's communes in the countryside on commodity production in our country? Is it true that commodity production can be "abolished" since we have the people's communes?

Some people have either regarded the people's commune as a self-supporting and self-sufficient economic unit or maintained that it should make progress towards this end. According to this point of view, since the products of the 500 million peasants will no longer enter the commodity exchange market, commodity production in our country will of course be very greatly reduced or even eliminated. This viewpoint is contrary to the actual facts. A people's commune has the special feature of being "large" in size (much larger than the former agricultural producers' co-operatives); it is capable of carrying out varied production, not only combining farming, forestry, animal husbandry, side-occupations and fishery but also requiring the simultaneous development of industry and agriculture. But we should not imagine that a people's commune would be able to produce all the



means of production and consumer goods it needs. To make further progress in production, every people's commune is now considering the buying of tractors, motor vehicles and machinery of various types, and the greater the development of production, the greater the demand for them will be. And it is impossible for a people's commune to produce all these things by itself. The living standards of the commune members will also rise gradually with the growth of production in the commune, their material and cultural needs will also become more and more complex and production in the commune itself can hardly meet all these needs.

At the same time, one must not think that a commune is not to produce anything it does not itself need. Every commune should not only turn out things it itself needs but also produce, wherever possible, things needed by the state and other communes. In the days when the productive forces in the countryside were very low, the peasants devoted practically all of their energies to procuring the simplest and essential means of consumption, so some of the things which the local peasants were in a position to produce but did not need themselves were not produced or produced only in very small quantities. The gradual rise of the productive forces, however, changes the situation. So it is precisely because of the enlarged scale of their production that the rural people's communes are, on the one hand, in greater need of various kinds of means of production and consumer goods from sources other than their own (from the state and other communes), and on the other hand, are in a better position to supply the state and other communes with all sorts of products (including grain, industrial raw materials, handicrafts, industrial goods, etc.), and are not turning themselves into more self-supporting and self-sufficient economic units. This also means that it is possible and necessary for a people's commune to develop commodity production, to produce things needed by the state and other communes, while developing, at the same time, production which is self-supporting in nature, producing things directly serving its own needs.

To date the commodity economy in China's countryside is still under-developed. Since the founding of the People's Republic, in the course of the gradual transformation of the small peasant economy into co-operative economy following the elimination of feudal exploitation, the Communist Party and the People's Government have energetically helped the peasants raise the output of grain and various industrial crops, develop a varied economy and side-line production; they have also exerted themselves to organize the exchange of goods between town and countryside. As a result, the marketable portion of farm produce and side-line products has increased annually. The volume of marketable farm produce and side-line products increased by 23 per cent in 1957 compared with 1952. In these years, however, commodity production constituted only about one-third of the total output value of farm produce and side-line products. Moreover, among the things sold by the peasants not a small portion was the mutual exchange of agricultural products and products of side-occupations; those exchanged for industrial goods amounted to only a little more than one half of the marketed farm produce and side-line products. This

situation, in the last analysis, is a reflection of the fact that labour productivity in the countryside was very low and that the peasants had not yet overcome poverty.

After the establishment of people's communes, because former handicraft co-operatives and agricultural producers' co-operatives were merged into a single people's commune, commodities formerly exchanged between these co-operatives are now distributed within the commune itself. With the setting up of industry by the commune itself, some of the industrial raw materials are no longer for sale but for its own use. But this is only one aspect of the situation. One must not come to the conclusion that the commodity production of the communes will be greatly reduced because of this one aspect. There is another more important aspect of the situation: facts have proved that the people's commune is able to make production grow by leaps and bounds. With the raising of labour productivity and the expansion of the scale of production, the commune will be able to produce more things to satisfy its own needs for enlarged reproduction and to raise the living standards of its members; at the same time, it will also be able to produce more things to be sold to the state and other communes in exchange for means of production and consumer goods it needs. Previously, not much exchange of goods between the different agricultural co-operatives was needed because what they produced was more or less the same; in the future, when the various communes have developed their varied economies and their industries according to their local conditions, a division of labour in production between the different communes will gradually take place which will result in a greater need for the circulation of commodities among the communes. From this it can be seen that in the future, there will be a considerable development of the circulation of commodities between the state and the communes, and among the communes. This development will result from the growth of production of the people's communes and will, in turn, stimulate the development of production of the communes and raise the living standards of their members.

### Nature of Rural Communes

Some people agree that a rural people's commune must not become a self-supporting and self-sufficient economic unit but maintain that it is possible to abandon the form of commodity exchange and adopt instead the way used by the state enterprises, i.e., the products of the communes and the means of production they need should be handled and supplied by the state. This idea arises from a lack of understanding of the nature of the present-day rural people's communes and the lack of serious analysis of the present economic conditions in our country.

Another special feature of the people's commune is that it is "public"; the degree of its public ownership is much higher than that in the agricultural co-operatives and it has some elements of ownership by the whole people. But since its ownership is in the main collective ownership, the means of production and products of every commune are in the main still the collective property of the commune. Since they are the property of the commune, one naturally cannot expect a commune to hand over its products without compensation. To procure

products from a commune, the state must pay in money with which the commune may again buy from the state the various means of production and consumer goods it needs. The same holds true between one commune and another. This means that the exchange of products between the commune and the state and between the communes must be realized by means of commodity production and the circulation of commodities. This mode of exchange, under the present conditions, is favourable to the development of commune production and the development of the national economy as a whole. It is also the mode acceptable to the peasants. The idea of attempting to abolish commodities immediately in this field is linked with the idea of hurrying up the transition from collective ownership to ownership by the whole people. It must be made clear that collective ownership must not be transformed into ownership by the whole people by means that bring losses to the peasants and to the communes where collective ownership prevails. Any immediate announcement that the state will handle all the products of the communes would in fact turn all products into public ownership without compensation; this would only harm the relations between the state and the peasants, worker-peasant relations, and would be disadvantageous to production.

Of course, the relationship between the state and the communes is not confined to commodity exchanges alone. Each commune is a unit of the entire national economy, developing its production under the unified leadership of the state. The state will provide all sorts of economic aid to the communes which will also, in turn, contribute a part of their income to the state as one of their obligations to the state (i.e., the portion the communes now deliver to the state in the form of agricultural tax and other taxes). With the organization known as the county federation of communes in existence, it will be able to concentrate a portion of the accumulation of the communes to establish certain enterprises and undertakings beyond the confines of the collective ownership of the communes. With the development of production in the people's communes and the growth of production of the country as a whole, the elements of ownership by the whole people in the people's communes will gradually grow; in this way conditions can be created step by step for the gradual transition of collective ownership in the communes to ownership by the whole people. As to how this transition can be effected, it is a question that needs to be discussed separately. Here, it must be pointed out that collective ownership in the people's communes is at present and for some years to come in accord with the level of the development of production in our country, that at a time when two forms of socialist ownership—ownership by the whole people and collective ownership—are in existence, commodity circulation between the state and communes, and between the communes is unavoidable and no attempts should be made to avoid it.

### **Supply System and Commodity Circulation**

Some people think that after the free supply system has been put into effect, all consumer goods may be distributed by the state or the people's communes directly to the individuals, and in this way the food consumed and articles used by private persons will cease to be commodities. Is this way of thinking correct or not? It is incorrect to think that an all-out supply system can be

introduced right now or that because of the introduction of the free supply system, consumer goods are no longer commodities.

All consumer goods for personal use produced by state enterprises as well as those procured by the state from the people's communes through commodity circulation are sold to the entire population as commodities. This is done in two different ways. The first concerns members of the people's communes where collective ownership prevails. The people's communes sell their products to the state and are paid in cash. A portion of the cash is distributed to the members, who use it to buy various kinds of consumer goods from the state through retail networks. Actually, this is still commodity circulation between the communes and the state.

With regard to the workers and staffs in state enterprises, the way is different. Persons who engage in productive labour within the scope of ownership by the whole people do not sell anything to the state; nor do they have anything which can be sold to the state. They do their share of work for society and get their share of wages in return, and by means of purchases they get from the totality of social products the share of consumer goods they need and are able to get. Here the state distributes personal consumer goods in the form of commodity circulation. Before the emergence of communist society, in which the principle of "from each according to his ability, and to each according to his needs" prevails, it is necessary for personal consumer goods to be sold to individuals as commodities. This is in no way disadvantageous to the development of social production and the individual consumers.

Now the people's communes in the rural areas have begun to introduce a distribution system which combines the wage system and the free supply system. The basic principle underlying this system of distribution remains the principle of "to each according to his work." In socialist society, because the level of the productive forces is not yet high enough, we must apply the principle of "to each according to his work." Only when the higher stage of communism is reached will it be possible to go over to the principle of "to each according to his needs." Therefore, on the one hand we consider that the socialist system of "to each according to his work" in itself is not immutable or unshakable and on the other hand, we maintain that "to each according to his work" is the basic principle governing the system of distribution in our present society. The introduction of the part-supply system has to a certain extent outstripped the principle of "to each according to his work." For example, because the supply system is applied to the children of working people, there will not be any radical difference in the standards of living just because some have more children and others have less. But the difference in wages on the basis of quantity and quality of labour cannot be entirely abolished. While the people's communes are implementing a distribution system which combines the wage system and the free supply system, it is necessary to increase the portion of wages step by step in keeping with the development of production. Since wages still exist, it is natural that many consumer goods should be sold to the consumers as commodities.

The portion of free supply is not necessarily provided in kind. The supply system at the present stage is not

yet the application of the communist principle of "to each according to his needs"; it is a limited supply which is introduced at a time when the level of production is relatively low and cannot yet fully satisfy the people's needs. Wherever possible, people should have adequate freedom of selection within the scope of goods that are to be supplied gratis, not only among different varieties of the same kinds of goods but among different kinds of goods of the same value. The more the social production is developed, the more kinds and varieties of personal consumer goods there will be that can be provided to the individuals. Not only can the standards of supply be raised but the room for individual choice within the standards of supply will be greater. It is difficult to imagine that departments in charge of the distribution of supplies can go into such details as carrying out distribution in kind according to every individual need and aptitude. It is also feasible to convert a portion of the free supply into cash and pay it to the members of the people's communes in accordance with the capacity of the communes and the desires of the masses, so that everybody can make personal purchases of the goods he needs.

The free supply system is, in a sense, the first shoots of the communist system of distribution. But it can be switched to the principle of "to each according to his needs" only when the productive forces have been developed to a very high degree, that is to say, only when the higher stage of communism has been reached, in which as Marx said, "All the springs of co-operative wealth flow more abundantly." By then everybody will be able to get an abundance of consumer goods from society, entirely according to his actual needs. Therefore, buying with money will become completely unnecessary.

### **Role of Socialist Commodities**

Those who are eager to abolish commodity production think that in commodities there is always the "ghost" of capitalism, and fear that this "ghost" will emerge from the development of the production and exchange of commodities. They do not know how to distinguish between capitalist commodities and socialist commodities. Those who engage in commodity production in China today are neither capitalists nor small producers, but the socialist state and socialist collective producers (mainly the people's communes and some handicraft co-operatives). Commodity production of this kind is not aimed to seek profits, but to satisfy the people's needs in accordance with the fundamental economic law of socialism. It is not anarchical, but is conducted according to the unified leadership and unified planning of the state.

In the past few years we have waged great struggles against capitalist commodity economy. We have done away with the capitalist ownership of the means of production and have replaced capitalist commerce with socialist commerce. In so doing we have defeated the capitalist commodity economy. Before 1953, private commerce still exercised considerable influence in the flow of goods between town and countryside. Since planned purchasing and marketing was introduced in the latter half of 1953, socialist commerce rapidly gained a predominant position. The quantity of marketable farm produce and side-line products increased year by year, but no harm

was done. This was due to the fact that although at that time agricultural co-operation had still not been realized commodity production and commodity circulation were already conducted under the leadership of the socialist state economy. When agricultural co-operation was fully realized and after the socialist transformation of capitalist industry and commerce was carried out, the capitalist element no longer existed in commodity production and commodity circulation. As long as the production of the state and the people's communes is developed in a planned way and commodity circulation between the state, the people's communes and the consumers is organized in a planned way in accordance with the objective laws of the socialist economy, commodity production and commodity circulation are bound to become favourable factors for the promotion of the socialist economy. On the contrary, if the objective economic laws are violated and attempts are made to adopt certain measures to "abolish" commodity production when it still plays a positive role, it is bound to result in disrupting production and disintegrating the economic life of society as a whole, and creating favourable conditions for the growth of the spontaneous forces of capitalism.

The development of commodity production by the people's communes under the leadership of the state naturally will not lead to any danger. It can only promote the integration of our industry and agriculture, strengthen the economic ties of the state and the people's communes, and enable the economies of the people's communes and the state to advance smoothly. The more developed the commodity production of the communes becomes, the more means of production of various kinds the communes can obtain, and at the same time, the more the wages that it will be possible to pay to the commune members, and consequently the higher the living standards of the members will be able to be raised. The increase in the amount of commodities provided by the communes and in the purchasing power of the individuals and the collective of the communes will further promote the growth of the national economy as a whole.

In order to provide more means of production to the people's communes it is necessary for the state to develop commodity production in this respect. In order to provide more consumer goods to the whole population it is necessary for the state to develop commodity production in consumer goods. To develop commodity production in consumer goods according to the state plan is to enable the people to obtain more and more consumer goods and make their choice from among the numerous kinds and rich varieties of products.

Finally, it should be pointed out that the development of socialist commodity production is good for creating the conditions to enable the people's communes to pass gradually from collective ownership to ownership by the whole people. And because the transition from socialism to communism is mainly decided by an enormous expansion of productive forces and a phenomenal increase in products, we can not only use commodity production to promote the development of socialism, but to prepare the condition for the transition to communism.

*(Abridged translation of an article published in "Hongqi," No. 14, December 16, 1958.)*



# Schools Run by Communes

by LI FANG

**Millions of formerly illiterate peasants are now going to newly established schools in their villages. This phase of the unfolding cultural revolution is depicted in the third of our articles in the series on new developments in education.**

**A**N upsurge of cultural revolution in the Chinese countryside has been set in train by this year's big leap in production. The policy of "the whole people run education," laid down by the Chinese Communist Party, has yielded remarkable results in this respect. Schools established and run by the people themselves have sprung up in large numbers throughout the nation—in villages and townships where there were few or none before. In Yungteng County, Kansu Province, for instance, every one of its twenty-two townships now has a middle school, while previously there were only two middle schools in the whole county. In Kiangsu Province, 454,285 students were enrolled in agricultural and other technical middle schools established during the current big leap in education. This is more than a hundred times the annual middle school student enrolment in pre-liberation days.

The rise of people's communes has further pushed forward education in the rural areas. By mid-October, the people's communes in the country were running 577,000 agricultural and other technical middle schools, ordinary middle and primary schools, with 35,850,000 students. In addition, there were 837,000 spare-time middle and primary schools and "red and expert" colleges and schools, with 45,590,000 students altogether.

The swift advance of rural education has been marked, first of all, by the nationwide establishment of agricultural middle schools. Kiangsu Province is foremost in this respect; in a few months' time 6,500 agricultural and other technical middle schools with 340,000 students were established there. Every township in that province now has such a school; there is one township with eleven! The practice in these schools is part-time farming and part-time study. Politics, Chinese language, mathematics and elementary agricultural science make up their curriculum. Physics and chemistry are taught in some. Lessons in agricultural techniques are co-ordinated with actual farming.

Most of the teachers are graduates of senior middle schools or cadres who have been sent to work in the countryside. In some districts, subjects concerned with agricultural techniques are taught by full-time teachers jointly with experienced peasants.

The students not only acquire theoretical knowledge but master farming and other production techniques. In the agricultural middle schools in Kiangsu alone, 38,844 *mu* of experimental farm plots were cultivated and 12,340 small factories were built.

The Kiangsu experiment has been extended to many other provinces. By mid-October, 69,000 agricultural middle schools with 3,690,000 students had been established throughout the country. This has proved to be one of the best ways to develop rural education swiftly.

## Integrated System

Education is an important component of the work of the people's commune which is an entity of industry, agriculture, trade, education and military affairs. The development of production in the communes requires numerous technical personnel not only in agriculture but in industry, financial and economic management, teaching, medicine and health, etc. And under the unified management of the commune, time can be arranged in such a way that production and education promote each other.

Many communes have set up integrated educational systems ranging from primary school to college.

The Weixing (Sputnik) Commune in Suiping County, Honan Province, is notable in this respect. One area unit under this commune has established "red and expert" universities and middle and primary schools, run on the principle of combining the training of specialized personnel with all-round elevation of the educational and technical level of all members.

The universities are of three types.

A full-time university has nine colleges—agriculture, industry, Marxism-Leninism, medicine, finance, animal husbandry, literature and art, teaching, and handicrafts. The aim is to train key personnel in charge of various fields of work of the commune.

Besides, four part-time farming, part-time study agricultural colleges have been established to train agricultural technicians for the production teams.

Finally there are spare-time colleges attended by most of the adult peasants to improve their general education and technical skills.

The unit also runs a full-time junior middle school and a part-time farming, part-time study agricultural middle school.

Education has become an organic part of the life of this commune—in an area where 90 per cent of the peasants were illiterate before liberation.

How the communes push education forward is also illustrated by the Chaoyuan People's Commune in Heilungkiang Province—a large one embracing a whole county. Very soon after this commune was established, it realized universal primary education. Furthermore, 3,000 young people were enrolled in agricultural and other technical middle schools; and colleges of agriculture, industry, health, pedagogy, physical culture and art were established. Now, 127,000 of the commune's 270,000 people are involved in studies. The commune has set itself the goal of realizing universal higher education in five years.

In all the schools of this commune, not only the tuition is free, but a supply system covering food, clothing and lodging is instituted.

To speed the training of technical personnel for the people's communes, many industrial and mining enterprises in Liuan Administrative Region, Anhwei Province, have co-operated with them in opening various types of technical schools. In Huoshan County, an elementary electrical engineering school has been established by several communes jointly with the power station of the Futseling Reservoir on the Huai River. The students are drawn from among literate peasant members of the communes. The teachers are engineers, technicians and veteran workers of the power station. The students go to the power station every afternoon for practical work. After two years of study, they will become technicians or skilled workers in rural power stations.

### Reform of Teaching Texts

The unprecedentedly high yields of rice and wheat on large areas this year make nonsense of the old textbooks of agriculture which still say the highest possible rice yield is 1,000 *jin* per *mu*, and which call wheat "a low-yield crop."

Drastic reform in the teaching materials used in agricultural schools, is needed to enable the students to link their studies more closely with the real facts of present-day life. In Honan the educational departments have compiled completely new teaching materials for agricultural schools of the province.

The contents of the new textbooks are closely linked with production in Honan, and deal largely with the



A peasant student  
Woodcut in colour by Li Ping-fan

actual experience of its people. Lessons on farm crops, for instance, are given with special reference to natural conditions in the province.

Other subjects too are taught in such a way as to bring them into close touch with actual work. The principles and processes of steel, cement, chemical fertilizer and methane gas production are added to the chemistry course.

In vast numbers of new schools in the countryside, Chinese peasants now learn not only general subjects but also agricultural-scientific ones, such as the grafting and hybridization of farm crops, close planting, the prevention of insect pests and plant diseases, chemical fertilizer, the improvement of farm tools, etc. They bring their textbooks and notebooks to the farms, and use work-breaks to discuss what they have learned. They experiment and do research on subjects bearing directly on local agricultural production. Many peasant agronomists and innovators have appeared.

Visiting Hsushui, Hopei Province, where the bumper harvest this year averaged 3,800 *jin* of grain per head of the population, Chairman Mao Tse-tung said to the peasants: "What are you going to do with so much food grain? Surely, to have more food grains is a good thing. If the food crops are much in excess of what you need, grow a bit less of them in future. How about working half a day and devoting the other half to culture, science and recreation, and to running colleges and middle schools?"

The bright prospects for developing rural education pointed out by Chairman Mao Tse-tung are beginning to materialize in the Chinese countryside. Through the broad educational opportunities now available to them, hundreds of millions of cultured peasants will emerge in China.

## Document

# CHINESE STATEMENT SUPPORTING SOVIET PROPOSAL ON THE BERLIN QUESTION

*The following statement was issued by the Government of the People's Republic of China on December 21, 1958. —Ed.*

THE Government of the Soviet Union recently sent notes to the Governments of the United States, Britain and France, proposing the withdrawal of foreign troops from Berlin and termination of the state of occupation of Berlin. This is another important measure taken by the Soviet Government to promote a peaceful settlement of the German question and to ease tension in Europe and the world. Berlin must be returned to the German people. This is a just measure in conformity with the unanimous desire of all the German people and in the interests of world peace. This proposal of the Soviet

Government is another powerful proof of the Soviet Government's noble desire and spirit of initiative to safeguard peace. The Government of the People's Republic of China fully supports this reasonable proposal of the Government of the Soviet Union.

More than 13 years have passed since the conclusion of the war against German fascism. But to this day the whole of Germany, including its capital Berlin, still remains divided under occupation. This is an abnormal situation which is extremely unreasonable. The history of the past 13 years fully shows that the blame for the



protraction of such an abnormal situation rests squarely with the Governments of the United States, Britain and France, which have time and again rejected constructive proposals put forward by the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic for a reasonable settlement of the German question, and insisted throughout on the annexation of Democratic Germany by West Germany as the means of unifying Germany. Militarism, fostered energetically by them, particularly by the U.S. imperialists, has revived in West Germany and West Berlin. They have further misused the occupation regime in Berlin to turn West Berlin into a "frontline city" within Democratic Germany, a base for conducting the cold war, creating tension and undertaking subversive and disruptive activities against Democratic Germany and other socialist countries. All this proves that by their actions the United States, Britain and France have long since thoroughly violated the fundamental principles of the Potsdam Agreement, and that therefore they have forfeited all legal grounds for their continued occupation of West Berlin. Precisely because of this, the recent proposal of the Soviet Government on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Berlin and termination of the state of occupation of Berlin has received the warm welcome and support of the German Democratic Republic, the German people and all peace-loving people throughout the world. One can see clearly that the realization of this proposal of the Soviet Government will not only promote the normalization of the Berlin situation, but also be conducive to mutual understanding and gradual rapprochement between the two Germanys. There is no doubt that this will also benefit the consolidation of peace in Europe and the world.

But the Western countries, the United States in particular, are alarmed about the proposal of the Soviet Government. They are seeking all sorts of pretexts in an attempt to reject the Soviet Government's reasonable proposal, and are even poisoning the international climate with war cries. To cover up their design to prolong their occupation of West Berlin, they are stubbornly hanging on to the totally untenable and fallacious argument that the settlement of the Berlin question must depend on that of the unification of Germany. It is quite clear that the Soviet proposal for the termination of the occupation regime in Berlin will be of great help to the gradual rapprochement between the two existing Germanys without outside interference, thereby facilitating the peaceful unification of Germany. If the Western countries, the United States, Britain and France, should continue to persist in their stubborn attitude, it will only prove their complete lack of sincerity for the peaceful settlement of the German question and the easing of international tension. In line with its consistent stand on the German question, the Government of the People's Republic of China fully supports the proposal of the Soviet Government and firmly maintains that the occupation regime in Berlin must be abolished, Berlin must be returned to the German people, and the cancerous tumour of West Berlin, which poisons the European and world situation, must be removed. If the Governments of the United States, Britain and France are not bent on turning West Berlin into a cancerous tumour endangering Germany and the world, they have no justification to reject this fair and reasonable proposal put forward by the Government of the Soviet Union.

## CHINESE PRESS OPINION

### *NATO on the Shoals*

Sharp flashes of conflict at the recent NATO council meeting in Paris highlighted the irreconcilable contradictions among its members. "This points to the increasing disintegration of this aggressive bloc," writes *Da Gong Bao* on December 20.

As at all previous NATO meetings, the imperialist powers led by the U.S. worked hard to create tension and prepare for war. The meeting rejected the Soviet proposal to turn Berlin into a demilitarized, free city, and adopted a number of decisions to step up nuclear war preparations. This, however, could not cover up the main feature of the gathering, that is, the quarrels between member states which testified to sharpening inter-imperialist contradictions and the growing inability of the United States to maintain its domination.

*Da Gong Bao* points out that the way the communique harps on "political cooperation" merely underlines the lack of it within the bloc and the realization

among its members, especially the smaller states, that the so-called "interdependence" is a pretext on which they are made accomplices of the aggressive policy of the United States and Britain. No solution was found to the French demand for a place in the leadership joining the United States and Britain; the demand of West Germany, Italy and the northern European countries for more effective "political consultation," or Britain's discontent with United States' domination of the bloc, the paper continues.

On the military side, it states, the United States' demand for increased military expenditure by other member

states and expansion of their military forces met with opposition. She also ran up against difficulties in getting them to agree to give her more missile bases. Up till now, among the Western countries, only Britain and Italy have agreed to the establishment of U.S. missile bases in their territories. The Western European countries see more clearly that as the situation now stands, the building of such bases in their coun-



*Under Dulles' hand  
The NATO band  
Sings U-N-I-T-Y-  
But — under J.F.'s collarband  
Strife's in command  
Sowing discord underhand*

*By Miao Ti*

tries would only put them in great danger of destruction in the event of war.

A life-and-death struggle is on between France's "common market" and Britain's "free trade area," *Da Gong Bao* points out. Britain has openly declared that this is more important than the "Berlin question" and that it may influence "military and political co-operation" in NATO. The Council could go no further than express the "hope" that this problem could be settled.

So it was no wonder that Dulles on his way to the Paris meeting, admitted that there was a "cloud" over the "free world," *Da Gong Bao* notes. But, the paper concludes, it was not merely a matter of "clouds," but an indication that imperialism is rotting away with each passing day.

### **Socialist Economic Co-operation**

Commenting on the success of the 10th Session of the Mutual Economic Assistance Council of the Soviet Union and other European socialist countries which ended in Prague on December 13, *Renmin Ribao's* commentator points out (Dec. 19) that the international division of labour and co-ordination of long-term economic planning among the socialist countries ensures the most rational utilization of their natural and economic resources, accelerates the economic growth of each country and promotes the rapid economic development of the whole socialist camp.

Economic relations among the socialist countries are based on the principle of proletarian internationalism, writes commentator. This principle is embodied in the fraternal economic co-operation among the socialist countries, especially in the assistance given by the more developed countries to the relatively under-developed ones. In the past few years, the Mutual Economic Assistance Council has played an outstanding role in this field.

Before 1955, he recalls, economic co-operation between the Soviet Union and the other European socialist countries was carried out mainly through barter exchange and long-term trade agreements. But this method of economic co-operation became inadequate as the economic development of the European socialist countries reached a new level. Their economic achievements, especially in the industrial field, called for a greater socialist international division of labour and co-ordination of activities.

After reviewing the activities of the Council since 1956, the commentator deals with the significance of the 10th Session of the Council in organizing this. The 9th Session of the Council

## **THE PASSING SHOW**

### **Bullnik**

Washington propagandists evidently still haven't come out of the tailspin they went into when the first Soviet sputnik took to orbit round the world. On December 19 they grandly announced that the U.S. had sent up a 3,915 kg. satellite—the biggest ever!

The break-down, however, came later when Washington had lamely to admit that this figure included the rocket-carrier. The Atlas satellite actually had an effective weight of 67.5 kg. compared with the 1,327 kg. of Sputnik III, the 508.3 kg. of Sputnik II and even the 83.6 kg. of Sputnik I launched by the Soviet Union. Atlas' grape-fruit sized predecessors weighed from 1.5 kg. to 17 kg. The Atlas satellite will orbit 20 days. Sputnik III went up in May and is still orbiting.

This reminds us that when Sputnik I went into orbit, a Washington official declared that the Russians had stolen the "secret of the rocket" from the U.S.



**Bull!**

*By Cheng Wen-chung*

held in Bucharest last June, discussed how to speed up the raw material and power industries of member states, while the 10th Session decided on a number of practical measures for further specialization and co-ordination in the chemical industry and ferrous metallurgy. These measures will facilitate member states' implementation of their long-term economic plans. This session also decided to build a long-distance pipe-line to carry Soviet oil to Hungary, the German Democratic Republic, Poland and Czechoslovakia. This gigantic project is an example of the economic co-operation and growing solidarity in the socialist camp.

There was a sharp contrast between this session of the Council and the recent internecine council meeting of the Organization for European Economic Co-operation, commentator concludes. The difference between these two kinds of economic relations is one of striking contrast between two worlds: the capitalist world which grows more rotten with every passing day and the socialist world which waxes steadily in strength.

### **Morocco Says: "U.S. Get Out!"**

*Renmin Ribao's* commentator writes on December 21 that the demand of the Moroccan Government for the liquidation of U.S. military bases on Moroccan territory is an exercise of the legitimate rights of a sovereign state.

The recently issued statement of the Moroccan Government reaffirming its determination to liquidate U.S. military bases on Moroccan territory, he notes, reflects the pressing demand of the Moroccan people for the evacuation of foreign troops and the safeguarding of their territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Morocco is neither a colony nor a U.S. protectorate. The forcible occupation of Moroccan territory by the U.S. armed forces is a serious infringement of Morocco's independence and sovereignty.

The commentator recalls that the U.S. set up five naval and air bases in Morocco by virtue of a "military agreement" it signed with France in 1950. Since they won independence in 1956, the Moroccan people have consistently demanded liquidation of foreign bases and the evacuation of foreign troops. Negotiations between Morocco and the U.S. on this subject started in 1957, but the unreasonable U.S. attitude has so far rendered negotiations fruitless.

The U.S., he points out, has made no attempt to hide its determination to perpetuate its occupation of Moroccan territory; it has openly admitted that Morocco provides bases which are important for their proximity to Soviet industrial centres. But the commentator points out that the United States also used its bases in Morocco for aggression against the Middle East. The U.S. Sixth Fleet whose task is to suppress the Arab national independence movement, depends on the U.S. base in the port of Kenitra (Port Lyautey) as its main supply and transport centre, he adds.

U.S. military bases on Moroccan territory are a serious threat to the security of that country and to the peace of this area, the commentator notes and concludes that in the past six months the Moroccan people have ever more clearly declared themselves opposed to foreign military bases and demanded the evacuation of foreign troops. "They have shown by their actions that it will not do for the U.S. imperialists to hang on in Morocco; sooner or later they will be driven out by the Moroccan people."

# LITERATURE

## Professional - Amateur Collaboration

A feature of the contemporary literary scene is the growing number of novels, short stories, reportage, biographies, plays, and scenarios which are the joint product of professional and amateur writers. Such collaboration is, of course, no new thing, but in the form and on the scale now being practised it marks a new departure in the literary field in China.

This stems directly from two things. There has been an unprecedented growth of mass literature in the past year. Peasants and workers in their hundreds of thousands—many of them newly literate—have been writing a vast amount of literature. Part of this has been the workaday productions of reports and news by amateur journalists for the press and wall-newspapers; but a large proportion has been a lyrical reflection in stories, plays and particularly in poems, of life and labour in the year of the great leap. As the rich history of China's folk literature shows, once they are encouraged to express themselves, the working people, deep-rooted in the soil of life, have fascinating and heroic stories to tell. But in the conditions of today a new problem soon emerges: that of helping them develop the necessary literary skill so that more writing can be created with a more profound ideological content and of a higher artistic level in modern forms.

Life itself has suggested a solution to this problem. While the masses have been taking to literature, more and more novelists, poets and other writers have gone to live and work in the villages, factories and mines alongside the peasants and workers. Even the most cursory glance at recent publications shows how this has enriched their work. It has enabled them to understand better and reflect the mainstream of life. But the building of socialism is opening up a new world to the writer, a world moreover that is in a state of extraordinarily rapid movement, a world of "uninterrupted revolution." In the village alone the co-op farm which became a collective farm last year, is the commune of this year. The home-style workshop of last month is the full-blown commune factory of today; the peasant of the day before yesterday is the factory manager of tomorrow. Even living and working on the spot, the professional writer may find it difficult to grasp reality adequately and quickly enough for his creative needs.

Out of these complementary needs has come the widespread employment of the new method of collaboration between

those who have the material of literature but lack the requisite skill, and those who have the skill but lack adequate understanding and material. Good examples are legion. When Lu Chu-kuo, author of *Sangkumryung*, the popular novel of the Korean war, went to the Fukien front to write a play on operations by our torpedo boats, the Communist Party committee in the naval unit he visited invited officers and sailors to discussions and talks with him, arranged interviews, supplied material. With this close collaboration, he completed a competent play in a matter of 20 days.

A new field in literature has been opened up by the writing of factory histories by workers. Writers and university students on practical work in the plants have been lending a helping hand. Workers, seamen and writers combined to chronicle the struggles of the longshoremen of Tangku Harbour.

Members of the Union of Chinese Writers and other intellectuals who are living among the peasants are paralleling these efforts by helping peasant-authors compile commune histories. One of the outstanding ones is the history of the Maitian (Wheat Fields) Commune. This literary reportage describes the bitter struggle which the peasants have had to wage against landlords, Japanese aggressors, Kuomintang agents, spies and bandits over the past 20 years, and ends with the triumphant achievements of the socialist revolution, the formation of the

commune and the exciting efforts of the commune members to harness nature.

The writing of such commune histories has set numbers of peasants on the literary road. In the Zhenmen People's Commune in Fukien Province, editors of *Refeng* (Warm Breezes), a local literary magazine helped many amateur peasant writers contribute to the writing of the commune's history.

Such heartening results have given a lead that is being followed by more and more writers, film directors, playwrights and other cultural workers joining forces with amateurs to create scenarios, plays and operas. With the enthusiastic help of the Communist Party committee of the Changsintien Locomotive and Wagon Works, the film director Hsieh Tien, two amateur worker-writers and a lathe-turner are collaborating on a scenario entitled "Eighty-eight Days" which tells how China's first locomotive was made. Every worker in the plant who took part in building the locomotive has given suggestions during the course of discussions on the scenario.

This is only one type of such co-operation. There are many others. Sometimes it is the professional writer who collects the data, interviews people concerned, writes the manuscript and does the editing. Sometimes, the first draft is written by the worker or peasant authors and then revised in group discussions, with the professional writer helping on the literary side.

When Wu Chiang, author of the outstanding war novel *Red Sun*, went to live and work among the workers of the No. 1 Dye Works in Shanghai, he gave a series of lectures on methods of creative writing. Within a short time, the number of his worker-students rose from 10 to over 50. He also took part in the old workers' forum where stories of the past were told and collected. He gave advice on the selection and arrangement of material in improving characterization.

Professional writers find that this method of collective creation helps them to strengthen their own socialist outlook and way of life. They get an invaluable practical lesson in a selfless and devoted attitude to writing. In writing, as in production, the worker-writer's predominant thought is how to better serve the cause of socialist construction and the people. He seldom worries about personal gain or loss, considerations that intellectuals raised in the old society usually find it



By the cartoonist Miao Ti based on a Kiangsu peasant wall painting. The legendary Monkey, mistaking the peasants' iron smelters for the Fire Mountains, tries in vain to blow them out with the magic fan.



difficult to avoid. It has also brought home the fact still more sharply, that divorced from productive labour, it is hard to reflect with any depth the thoughts and feelings of workers and peasants. Again and again they find their amateur collaborators adding vivid and lyrical touches out of their own experience which no "outsider" could invent.

There are many significant points to all this. It is another remarkable manifestation of the policy of "Let a Hundred Flowers Blossom"; of the growth of mass literature, the turning of the literary man to the urgent problems of contemporary life, and much else, but not least it is an excellent example of how popularization of literary work is now turning to tackle the problem of raising the level of the creative work being done. It certainly opens promising prospects for next year.

## BOOKS

### Salvaging the Classics

Step by step the heritage of Chinese literature, dispersed and lost during the years of turmoil before the liberation, is being rediscovered, re-collected and permanently preserved. The latest success concerns the *Shui Ching Chu* (Commentary on the Waterways Classic) of the *Yung Lo Ta Tien* (Great Encyclopaedia of the Yung Lo Period, 1403-1425). The *Shui Ching Chu* was a geographical account of China's rivers and canals by Li Tao-yuan of the Northern Wei dynasty (386-534 A.D.), but its eight volumes which were collected in the *Yung Lo Ta Tien* became scattered in various places. It was only in 1951 that the Board of Directors of the Commercial Press in Shanghai presented the first four volumes to the Ministry of Culture which gave them to the Peking Library. In April the library of Peking University turned over the remaining four volumes of the *Shui Ching Chu* to the Peking Library. For the first time in over half a century the whole work has been gathered together in one place, a major event for the scholarly research that is now going on in the classic texts.

The fifteenth and sixteenth centuries saw a great deal of scholarly research work; the Chinese encyclopaedic movement reached its climax during the reign of the third emperor Yung Lo (1403-1425 A.D.) of the Ming dynasty. More than 2,000 scholars were employed to compile the *Yung Lo Ta Tien*, a gigantic work of 11,095 volumes in 22,937 parts. The encyclopaedia, which took five years to complete, was compiled from over seven thousand books from



The first two volumes of *Shui Ching Chu* (Commentary on the Waterways Classic), Volumes III27 and III28 of the *Yung Lo Ta Tien*

ancient times to the time of compilation. Sometimes whole works were copied straight into the encyclopaedia; for this purpose rare books were collected from all over the empire and copied before being returned to their owners. Unfortunately, the result was deemed too large to print, and only two further copies were made from 1562 to 1567. The original copy was taken to Nanking to be preserved there. It perished in a fire. One of the two copies was deposited in what is now the Palace Museum in Peking. This was also destroyed by fire. Most of the volumes of the other copy which was kept in the Imperial Academy in Peking were destroyed or stolen and taken abroad when the troops of eight imperialist countries ravaged Peking in 1900, during the Yi Ho Tuan (Boxer) Rising. The dispersal and destruction of the *Yung Lo Encyclopaedia* has caused irreparable loss to the study of China's literature, arts, history and applied sciences, for it included a large number of local histories, books of medicine, poetry, plays and stories of the Sung and Yuan dynasties which preceded the Ming dynasty. It also contained copies of many ancient books of great scientific value, such as the *Chi Min Yao Shu* (Important Arts for the People's Welfare) by Chia Ssu-hsieh of the Northern Wei dynasty and the *Ying Tsao Fa Shih* (Treatise on Architectural Methods) by Li Chieh of the Sung dynasty (960-1279 A.D.). Versions of these books have been handed down and are still fortunately extant today, but the *Yung Lo Ta Tien* copies would have made possible a comparative study of these books and publication of a standard edition which would be of great value to research workers today.

At the time of liberation, the Peking Library contained only 110 volumes of the *Yung Lo Encyclopaedia*. In 1951, the

library of Leningrad University returned to the Chinese Government eleven volumes of the encyclopaedia which had been plundered by tzarist Russia. In 1954, the Lenin Library of the Soviet Union returned 52 more volumes of this encyclopaedia which had formerly been kept in the library of the Japanese-owned South Manchuria Railway Company. Leipzig University Library of the German Democratic Republic returned three more volumes of the encyclopaedia to China in 1955. In addition, 38 volumes have been obtained since liberation from local libraries and private owners in China, thus bringing Peking Library's collection of the *Yung Lo Ta Tien* to 214 volumes. Many surviving copies of this great work are still scattered in libraries all over the world; two of them dealing with mathematics, for instance, are in the library of Cambridge University.

Meanwhile, to facilitate research work, the Peking Library plans to microfilm all its volumes of the *Yung Lo Ta Tien* and send copies to libraries and research institutions all over the country.

## SPORTS

### World Swimming Record

China's ace swimmer Mu Hsiang-hsiung broke the world record for the men's 100 metres breast-stroke when he clocked 1 min. 11.4 secs. in a swimming contest held between China's best swimmers in Peking on December 20. He clipped 0.1 sec. off the record held by Minashkin of the Soviet Union.

Mu Hsiang-hsiung, who is twenty-three years old, as one of China's leading breast-stroke swimmers, was particularly good at underwater swimming. But when the International Amateur Swimming Federation ruled out underwater swimming in the breast-stroke last year, it seriously affected Mu's time. Another Chinese ace swimmer, Chi Lieh-yun, came to the fore and became the world's first champion in the 100 metres breast-stroke under the new rules, when he clocked 1 min. 11.6 secs. on May 1 last year. This record, however, was later broken by the Soviet swimmer Minashkin with a time of 1 min. 11.5 secs.

Meanwhile, Mu Hsiang-hsiung was training hard, undertaking the difficult task of changing his style of swimming to conform to the new rules. In a contest between Chinese and Soviet swimmers held last October in Peking, he beat Minashkin by 0.1 sec., winning the event in 1 min. 11.7 secs.

# CHINA AND THE WORLD

## Our Northern Neighbour

The arrival in Peking on December 23 of a government delegation of the Mongolian People's Republic headed by the Vice-Chairman of its Council of Ministers, D. Molomzhamts, draws attention to the growing importance of economic and other co-operation between China and the M.P.R.

In his speech of welcome at a banquet in honour of the delegation which is here to discuss measures to strengthen this co-operation, Vice-Premier Ho Lung dwelt on the fraternal friendship between the Chinese and Mongolian peoples. The Mongolian people have given much help and support to China, he stressed, notably in 1945 when they together with the Soviet people, assisted the Chinese people in defeating Japanese imperialism. Recalling the help which the two countries have given each other in socialist construction, the Vice-Premier said that China was ready to give as much more help as it could to Mongolia for the development of her animal husbandry, agriculture and industry.

Since the founding of the Chinese People's Republic in 1949, economic relations between the two countries have grown by leaps and bounds. Following the signing of the Sino-Mongolian Agreement on Economic and Cultural Co-operation in 1952 there has been a big increase in the mutual help which they have given to each other's socialist construction; this grew particularly rapidly with the opening of direct railway transport between Ulan-Bator and Peking in 1956.

Mongolia is supplying China with a large number of draught animals. Since 1951, Chinese farms have received about 150,000 Mongolian horses, a big help to production as most Chinese farming still depends on draught animals. In 1958, the Mongolian Government made a timely gift of 15,000 draught horses to help speed China's agricultural leap forward.

China's aid to the M.P.R. has been mainly in the form of construction projects built without compensation, as provided for in the 1956 agreement on Chinese economic and technical aid to Mongolia. Those completed so far include an automatic brick works, a

power station, woollen mill, glass factory, stadium, motor roads and bridges.

Mutual trade has grown steadily. The 1956 trade figure was already 8.8 times that of 1951; this year it again increased by more than 10 per cent compared with 1957. Today, as sturdy Mongolian horses are gaining popularity on Chinese farms all over the country, so Chinese silk textiles and other consumer goods can be bought not only in Ulan-Bator but also in the Mongolian pasturelands.

Chinese and Mongolian herdsmen living on the borderland steppes have built up a firm friendship. Under the leadership of their respective local governments, they have often worked together to dig wells for their flocks or go on joint wolf-hunting expeditions. Since 1956, through mutual agreement between the two governments, hundreds of thousands of livestock have moved across the borders, feeding on good pastures in both countries during the winter months. All this, of course, would have been unthinkable before liberation.

Co-operation has been fruitful in the cultural field too. Art troupes and sports teams have been exchanged. This year, the Wuhan Acrobatic Troupe made quite a hit in the M.P.R., travelling long distances to perform even in the remotest regions of the western part of the Republic. The famous Chinese folk opera, *The White-Haired Girl*, has been successfully performed by Mongolian singers in Ulan-Bator, while a Peking opera version of the famous Mongolian opera *Three Mountains* aroused great interest among Chinese audiences. This year, cameramen of the two countries are co-operating to produce a full length documentary with Sino-Mongolian friendship as its theme. There have also been mutual visits by delegations to exchange experiences in education, health and other fields.

This wide-ranging co-operation and growing friendship between the two countries are based on their firm political unity. As *Renmin Ribao* points out in its editorial on December 24 welcoming the Mongolian Government Delegation: China and Mongolia are members of the socialist family. Both are doing their utmost to strengthen the unity of the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union. Sino-Mongolian friendship and solidarity is an inseparable part of the unity of the whole socialist camp.

## Mission Accomplished!

The Algerian Government Delegation left Peking for home on December 21 after a 16-day visit in China.

In his farewell speech to the delegation at the airport, Vice-Premier Chen

Yi once again asked the delegates to tell their compatriots that the struggle of the Algerian people against colonialism and for national independence will always have the firm support of the Chinese people. "We are completely convinced," the Vice-Premier declared, "that the heroic Algerian people will be able to overcome all difficulties and win final victory in their struggle for national liberation."

Minister Benyoussef Benkhedda, in reply, said that the cordial welcome accorded the delegation "was addressed directly to the heroic Algerian people."

"In all our contacts, and particularly in our contacts with the leaders of the People's Republic of China, we have met with a great understanding of and deep sympathy for the Algerian cause."

"We have been assured that the great Chinese people will stand by our side," the Algerian Minister concluded.

## Sino-Algerian Communiqué: Comments

The unanimity of views between the Chinese and Algerian Governments expressed in the joint communiqué, signed in Peking before the departure of the Algerian Government Delegation, was greeted as a significant development by all leading Chinese papers.

Typical is *Renmin Ribao's* December 21 editorial comment which stressed that the two peoples have formed a sincere friendship based on the solid foundation of common struggle. It wrote: "The Algerian people's struggle is a component part of the national revolutionary movements now engulfing the entire Asian-African region. It is not only a struggle for the independence and freedom of the Algerian people, but also one which has inspired the peoples of all colonies and dependent countries to rise against colonial enslavement. It has not only dealt a telling blow to the colonial forces of French imperialism but also constitutes a form of support for all peoples fighting against imperialist aggression, particularly aggression by U.S. imperialism. This is the reason why the struggle of the Algerian people will win growing support and sympathy from the peoples of Asia, Africa and the rest of the world."

In Cairo, Premier Ferhat Abbas on behalf of the Algerian Provisional Government, welcomed the joint communiqué. In an exclusive interview with the Hsinhua News Agency correspondent, Premier Abbas said: "The visit of our delegation to People's China has filled us with optimism. Without doubt, this visit is the first step in strengthening our friendship and fruitful co-operation. The Algerian people welcomes friendship with People's China,



established in the course of their four-year-old liberation struggle, because we are confident that this friendship opens new prospects strengthening our hope in freedom and peace."

### Sportsmen Patriots

On the last day of their stay in China, the Algerian Delegation made a two-hour visit to the Peking Gymnasium. As they inspected the indoor training facilities and watched Chinese sportsmen at practice, Minister Mahmoud Cherif expressed his admiration of the modern facilities available and told how many outstanding Algerian sportsmen who had held records in France were now in French jails while others were fighting

against the French colonialists in the ranks of the Algerian liberation forces.

The Algerian Minister also revealed the welcome news that his government would send a football team and other sportsmen to China.

### Chinese Exhibition in Cambodia

A Chinese exhibition showing various aspects of present-day construction in China is drawing record crowds in Phnom Penh. The exhibition, first of its kind ever held in Cambodia, was arranged by agreement between Prince Sihanouk and Premier Chou En-lai when the Prince visited China last August. In the five days since it opened on

December 20, over 150,000 people thronged its halls to see the 3,000 exhibits; these include industrial machinery, farm tools, models of various construction sites as well as charts and photographs depicting the upsurge in China's industrial and agricultural production. Opening time was extended by two extra hours a day to accommodate the press of visitors.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Prince Sihanouk said the exhibition showed the great efforts China was making and was an indication of China's regard for Cambodia. He also urged that China's experiences and achievements in agriculture be studied and adapted to Cambodian soil and way of life.

## 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 BATTLE OF CHIBI** A traditional Peking opera adapted from China's greatest historical novel: the *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*. How the powerful army of Wei is defeated at Chibi by the allied forces of Wu and Shu led by Chou Yu and Chukuo Liang, master of military strategy.

▲ **THE SPUTNIKS IN HEAVEN** The sputniks, newest arrivals in heaven, rescue two celestial maids from the tyranny of the Jade Emperor. They cheer heaven's inhabitants by describing the great happenings on earth and announcing the news that soon heaven and earth will be brought much closer by space travel. Produced by the Fourth Troupe of the Peking Opera Company of Peking.

Jan. 1, 1959, 1:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m.  
Zhong He Theatre

#### KUNCHU OPERA

A New Year Programme given by the North China Kunchu Opera Theatre at the Xi Dan Theatre

Jan. 1 Matinee at 1:30 p.m.

*A Night at the Inn*

*Wu Sung Kills the Tiger*

*A Maid Upsets the Lesson*

*At the Chinshan Temple*

(Episode from the *White Snake*)

Evening Performance at 7:15 p.m.

*Hung Hsia*. A girl revolutionary gives her life to save her fellow villagers by leading the attacking KMT troops to a place of no return.

Jan. 4 Matinee at 1:30 p.m.

*A Nun Seeks Freedom*

*Battle of Ho Village*

*Chun Kuei Marries Off His Sister*

*Writing the Appeal*

(A scene from the opera

*A Happy and Unexpected Reunion*)

Evening performance at 7:15 p.m.

*Hung Hsia*

#### THEATRE

▲ **THE MASSES ASTIR**—describes how Chinese women, for the first time, have freed themselves from household drudgery and joined in social production. Erlung Road,

Peking, is the scene of this play. Produced by the China Youth Art Theatre.

Dec. 31, 1958 & Jan. 1, 1959, 2:30 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m. *China Youth Art Theatre*

▲ **PAPER TIGER** A satire on the men in Washington who dream of annexing China's Taiwan. Produced by the China Youth Art Theatre.

Dec. 30, 7:00 p.m. *China Youth Art Theatre*

▲ **HEARTS AFLAME** A group of Volunteers back from Korea set up a factory in a disused building. Battling difficulties, they make it a success. Produced by the Peking People's Art Theatre.

Dec. 30, 1958 - Jan. 5, 1959, 7:15 p.m. *Shoudu Theatre*

▲ **THE SNOW QUEEN**—adapted from the Hans Andersen fairy tale. A courageous girl overcomes many difficulties in rescuing her little boy friend. Produced by the China Children's Theatre.

Dec. 30 & 31, 7:00 p.m. *Peking Theatre*

▲ **THE EGRET** Laid in Amoy on the eve of liberation, this play by Pai Jen tells the true story of a young girl named Liu Hsi-fen. Educated by the Party, she becomes an underground revolutionary, faithful to the revolutionary cause to the end. She is killed by the enemy. After her death the people grew to know her as "The Egret"—symbol of foresight. Produced by the China Youth Art Theatre.

Jan. 2 - Jan. 10, 1959, 7:00 p.m. *China Youth Art Theatre*

#### CONCERT

Modern Chinese music by the Central Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra. Including works by Sitson Ma.

Jan. 4, 1959, 10:00 a.m. *Renmin Theatre*

#### FILMS

▲ **THE GREAT TIDE** A Haiyian production featuring the building of a 5,000-ton steamer by the Shanghai Chiangan Shipyard in 70 days.

Jan. 1-5, 1959, *Shoudu Cinema, Peking Exhibition Centre Cinema, Xin Jie Kou, Zhongyang, Guang An Men, Peking Workers' Club, Da Hua, Jiao Dao Kou*

▲ **AN ORDINARY JOB** Lin Pei-ming, a primary school graduate, becomes a kindergarten teacher. At first, she doesn't like her work at all. How she learns to love her "ordinary job" and becomes an "activist," is the theme of the story. Produced by the Haiyian Film Studio.

Dec. 30 & 31, *Shoudu Theatre, Peking Theatre, Dong Dan Workers' Club*

▲ **HAMLET** The well-known British film with Lawrence Olivier playing the Prince of Denmark; in two parts; dubbed in Chinese.

Dec. 30 & 31, *Shoudu Cinema, Peking Exhibition Centre Cinema, Xin Jie Kou, Zhongyang, Guang An Men, Peking Workers' Club*

▲ **1918** A film version of Part II of Alexei Tolstoy's trilogy *Ordeal*. A vivid picture of St. Petersburg in revolution, of the staunchness of the proletariat in the face of hunger and cold and enemies, both within and without, and the varied reactions of the intellectuals as the revolution unfolds. A Soviet widescreen production in colour with Chinese sub-titles.

Jan. 1-5, 1959, *Shoudu Cinema*

#### EXHIBITIONS

▲ **EXHIBITION ON THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE ACTIVE YOUNG BUILDERS OF SOCIALISM** Open daily (except Mon.) 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at 13 West Kung Yuan St., inside Chien Kuo Men Gate.

▲ **ART EXHIBITION** Over 200 Chinese traditional-style paintings by artists of Kiangsu. Most of them reflect the new features of life in China. Open daily 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

At the *Gallery of the Artists' Union* on Shuai Fu Yuan, off Wang-fuching St.

▲ **EXHIBITION OF THE NATIONAL SANITATION CAMPAIGN** Open daily (except Mon.) 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

At the *Working People's Palace of Culture and Zhongshan Park*

▲ **POLISH PHOTO EXHIBITION** to mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Polish Communist Party. A graphic record of the history of the Party. Open daily 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

At *Zhongshan Park*

#### VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT

The Central Experimental Opera Theatre's New Year Day programme: Folk dances and music; choral singing and solos.

Jan. 1, 1959, 10 a.m. *Tianqiao Theatre*

Special New Year programme of entertainment presented jointly by the Central Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Central Radio *Quyí* Company and the Chinese Traditional Music Orchestra.

Dec. 31, 1958 & Jan. 1, 1959, 7:00 p.m. *Tianqiao Theatre*

#### PEKING PLANETARIUM

Special daily showings:

"The Sputnik"

"Trip Through the Universe"

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Vol. I. Nos. 1-44, 1958

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Successful Operation on Heart	13 : 20				
New Cancer Hospital	13 : 20				
Concentrated Sunlight to Cure Skin Diseases	13 : 20				
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