

BEIJING REVIEW



A CHINESE WEEKLY OF
NEWS AND VIEWS

China's New Proposal on Disarmament

Latest Developments in Tibet



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

China's Position on Disarmament

In his June 11 speech at the Second Special Session of the UN General Assembly, Chairman of the Chinese Government Delegation Huang Hua put forward China's view of the measures needed for an immediate end to the arms race and for disarmament (p. 15).

Israel's New Aggression Condemned

The Chinese Government issued a statement on June 15 strongly condemning Israel for its aggression against Lebanon and calling on all peace-loving countries and people to join their efforts to stop the aggressors. The statement also condemned the US Government for abetting and supporting Israel in its aggression (p. 6).

President Mobutu's Visit to China

President Mobutu's visit reaffirms the friendship and cooperation between China and Zaire as well as a relationship of mutual trust between the two countries' leaders (p. 5).

Tibet Forges Ahead

Thanks to the Central Government's correct policies and assistance to Tibet, this autonomous region has made remarkable progress in the political, economic, cultural and other fields in recent years (p. 18).

An Important Link Between Leaders and People

The system of interviewing visitors and handling letters from the people, established in the early 50s, helps inform the government about the people's

demands, to forge close ties between the two and strengthen people's supervision over cadres. It has proved to be an effective channel for enforcing democracy (p. 23).

Peasants' Income Increases

A sample survey by the State Statistical Bureau shows a rapid increase in per-capita income for Chinese peasants from 1979 to 1981, mainly as a result of the Party's rural economic policies (p. 7).



After reaping a rich harvest.
Woodcut by Qijiadawa

BEIJING REVIEW

Published every Monday by
BEIJING REVIEW
24 Baiwanzhuang Road, Beijing
The People's Republic of China

Vol. 25, No. 25 June 21, 1982

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BEIJING REVIEW (USPS No. 658-110) is published weekly for US\$ 13.50 per year by Beijing Review, 24 Baiwanzhuang Road, Beijing, China. Second-class postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to China Books & Periodicals, Inc., 2929 24th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110.

The Income Gap

Will the adoption of the responsibility system in the rural areas lead to class polarization, with the poor getting poorer and the rich richer?

It is true that the difference between the rich and the poor has widened since the adoption of the responsibility system in the countryside in 1979, according to recent surveys. But, this is a result of the imbalanced growth resulting from the development of production and increase of many peasants' private incomes. It has nothing to do with class polarization.

The responsibility system, or contract system as one foreign writer calls it, gives the collective economic organizations and individual peasants more power to manage their own affairs and guarantees the implementation of the principle "to each according to his work." The results obtained in 90 per cent of the rural areas over the past three years show that this system has enabled production teams and individual peasants with favourable conditions to make material gains more quickly than others. But, more important, it has helped large numbers of less advanced production teams and peasants to shake off poverty.

Anhui Province's Chuxian Prefecture — the first in China to practise a responsibility system which fixes output quotas on the household basis — is a case in point. The prefecture embraces seven counties with a population of 3.30 million. In 1977, production teams there with an average annual per-capita income of less than 50 yuan accounted for 8.8

per cent of this prefecture's teams; but in 1981, the figure dropped to 0.55 per cent. The number of families in real financial difficulty also dropped from 39.3 to 2.9 per cent during this period.

While there is universal improvement in the peasants' living standards, more than 7,000 families, or 1.2 per cent of the total number, earned an average of 500 yuan per capita annually and 30,000 households, or 5 per cent of the total, earned less than 60 yuan per person. This shows that the income gap between the rich and the poor has indeed widened, even though the number of people at each extreme is small by comparison.

Chuxian Prefecture is representative of the economically underdeveloped areas that encompass one-third of the nation's countryside.

There are many reasons for the growing difference.

The relatively poor peasant households, that is, 5 per cent of the total in Chuxian Prefecture, roughly fall into two categories. The first includes families of the disabled or those whose members are in the army or have died in the revolutionary wars. They all depend on government and collective subsidies or social relief. According to state stipulations, collective economic organizations and local governments must subsidize them to help them make ends meet.

The other category is made up of families which lack able-bodied members, funds or skills, those in production teams

handicapped by unfavourable natural conditions and those whose collective economy leaves much to be desired. To these families goes most of the government attention and help. Local governments at all levels take a series of supportive measures to help them, such as tax reduction or exemption, lightening their share of collective labour, granting them preferential loans, material aid and technical guidance and helping them improve management.

The responsibility system includes flexible forms of labour organization and methods of distributing production returns within the collective economy; but it is based on the public ownership of the means of production and guided by the state plan.

It has done away with unrealistic production commands and absolute egalitarianism which smothered the peasants' zest for farm labour. Thus, to it can be attributed the tremendous changes in the last few years in China's agricultural production and the peasants' livelihood.

According to government statistics, the national peasant per-capita income averaged 220 yuan in 1981, a 64 per cent increase over 1978. The annual progressive increase rate in the last three years was 18 per cent, an all-time high.

Why do the differences between the rich and the poor arising from the responsibility system have nothing to do with class polarization?

"Class polarization" is the outcome of the private ownership of the means of production. It is, in essence, a class contra-

LETTERS

Planned Economy

The articles in issue No. 12 about planned economy ["Chen Yun on Planned Economy" and "Upholding Planned Economy in Agriculture" — *Ed.*] are very important. But we found it difficult to judge which way is correct to achieve better and faster results in agriculture. Anyway, it is very important to give some account of the questions that are being discussed.

It is of vital importance to China, a large country which historically had the huge problem of feeding its people, to have a highly efficient agriculture. What's worth noting is that many developing countries neglect their agricultural development while advancing their industry. Therefore, how China will avoid this mistake arouses my special interest. I think, from your reports, people can see China not only attaches importance to building up modern industry but also attaches due importance to building up modern agriculture.

The article "China's Daily Economic Activities" in the column "From the Chinese Press" in issue No. 14 is an excellent, significant material. The statistics of the country's daily production and consumption offer a very good brief account of China's economic situation. I would be very obliged to you if you could continue to provide this kind of material.

Peter Romen
Lochau, Austria

dition resulting from holders of the means of production exploiting the surplus value created by the labour of others. But in China today, the major means of farm production — land, water conservancy facilities and large farm implements — have long been publicly owned and the peasants can use them but are not allowed to rent them out or sell them.

The responsibility system excludes the possibility of getting rich by exploiting others and, therefore, class polarization will not take place, with "one family

Articles and Documents

"Articles and Documents" is the most important column because its articles reflect China's official political stand. *Beijing Review* should concentrate its efforts on running the column well and should not strive to provide comprehensive coverage of the various happenings in China. These reports are being carried by *China Pictorial* and *China Reconstructs*.

One thing I feel unsatisfied with is that the articles you carry have been condensed or were published much earlier by Chinese papers. I hope you can translate the articles and documents you plan to carry in a more timely manner.

In addition, the articles in the "International" column are too short and the information given is too little. It would be better if you'd selectively carry some detailed and authoritative articles on international problems, such as the full texts of articles from *Renmin Ribao* and Xinhua News Agency or statements by your Foreign Ministry.

Christian von Arx
Schonenwerd, Switzerland

The "Letters" column reflects voices of the readers who think the articles in *Beijing Review* are too difficult to understand. But we still agree that it should adhere to its orientation as a political and theoretical magazine.

T.M.
Nagoya, Japan

Western Economy

I always find the column "International — Reports & Com-

dominating the land while a thousand others go bankrupt."

Although the difference between the poor and the rich in China has much to do with natural and historical factors, it is essentially a manifestation of the difference in people's physical ability and labour skills. This difference is unavoidable in socialist society and need not be feared. It shows the way to become prosperous by one's own sweat and, in this sense, it is a prime mover for the growth of production.

— *Economic Editor Jin Qi*

ments" very interesting, because its comments are made from an internationalist point of view. I've read the article "Economic Trend of Western Capitalist Countries" (issue No. 13) three times with great interest. I'm very pleased that it includes almost all the things I want to know. The theory of the three worlds expounded by Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping at the United Nations is embodied in this persuasive, good article.

Kazuhiko Mitomi
Niigata, Japan

"China Today" Series

China Today (1) entitled *Population and Other Problems*, though it deals mainly with population and other problems of China, it reflects a search for a balanced development strategy for a socialist developing country. In fact it is a very delicate subject. However, it is to the credit of the PRC and CPC leadership that it has tried to steer a balanced course.

In short, the booklet published by *Beijing Review* tries to explain the nature of those hurdles which have blocked the removal of social ills like unemployment, housing shortage and juvenile crime in socialist China. The booklet explains how the past social background of China was a hurdle in the way of its speedy social transformation. It also states how faulty and devoid of economic realism were past policies like the Great Leap Forward and subsequently, it points out how ravages of the "cultural revolution" added to the already prevailing disequilibrium. The booklet brings out how harmful subjectivism and ultra-Leftism are for the development of a socialist society.

To make it readable, the booklet has many illustrations, pictures and graphs. It teaches us many lessons; foremost being how a socialist developing country can cope with its many problems, especially the population problem. In my opinion, the future of socialism in the developing countries and the world hinges upon the solution of those problems which are highlighted in the pamphlet.

Abdul Qadeer Nomani
Fatupura, Gujrat, Pakistan

FOREIGN
RELATIONS**President Mobutu
Visits China**

President of the Republic of Zaire Mobutu Sese Seko paid a friendly visit to China (June 11-14).

Premier Zhao Ziyang held talks with the Zairian President. Both sides considered that the friendship and co-operation between the two countries had been continually expanded and strengthened since the normalization of relations in 1972. They stressed that the two governments would make further efforts to expand such relations. Zhao Ziyang said that China would continue to follow the policy of safeguarding and strengthening unity among the third world countries. Mobutu spoke highly of China's policy of giving support to the third world countries.

The two leaders also discussed international issues of common

interest, and they had the same or similar views on many major issues.

During his meeting with President Mobutu on June 12, Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping said: "Since the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and Zaire in 1972, leaders of the two countries have established a relationship of mutual trust. This is because our two countries have had similar experiences of being bullied by imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism."

President Mobutu said that there indeed exist relations of mutual trust between the two countries. He expressed satisfaction at the co-operation between the two countries.

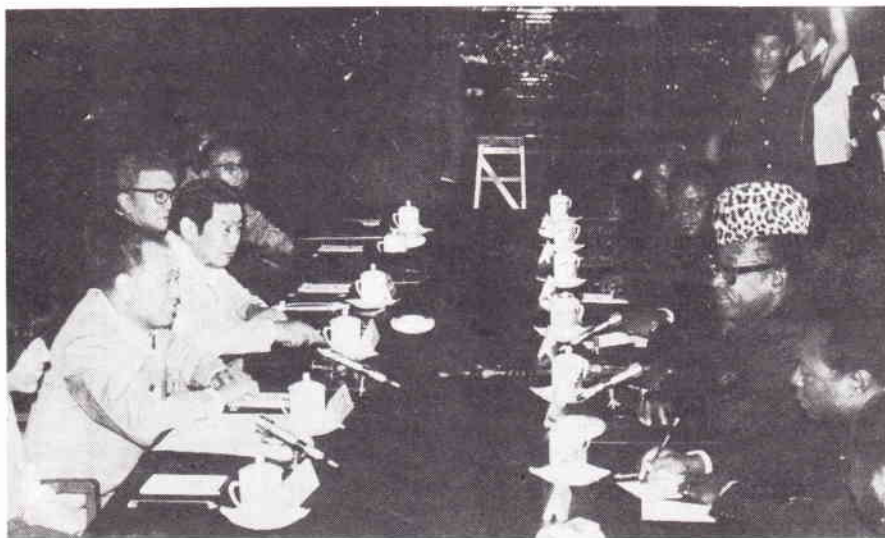
On the same day, President Mobutu met with Chinese experts who had worked in Zaire. These experts helped build a people's palace and a farm tools plant and grow sugar and rice crops. They made contributions to the promotion of friendship between the two peoples.

**Mme. Imelda Marcos
In China**

Mme. Imelda Marcos, wife of Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, Minister of Human Settlements and Governor of Metro-Manila, paid an official visit to China from June 7 to 11.

During her visit, Chairman Hu Yaobang and Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping of the Party Central Committee, Premier Zhao Ziyang of the State Council and Vice-Chairman Yang Shangkun of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress met with her on separate occasions. They exchanged views on major issues in Asia and the rest of the world as well as bilateral relations.

At a banquet he gave in honour of Mme. Marcos, Premier Zhao Ziyang said that since China and the Philippines established diplomatic relations seven years ago, the two countries have carried out fruitful co-operation in the economic, trade, cultural, scientific and technological fields and worked together for the maintenance of peace and security in Southeast Asia and the establishment of a new international economic order. He added that the exchange of visits between leaders of the two countries, in particular, has deepened mutual understanding and trust and laid a solid foundation for the development of friendship between them. He expressed the conviction that her present visit to China would make new contributions to the further strengthening of the friendly ties and co-operation between China and the Philippines.



Premier Zhao Ziyang holds talks with President Mobutu.

China Condemns Israel's Invasion of Lebanon

THE Chinese Government on June 15 issued a statement strongly condemning Israel's invasion of Lebanon. The statement reads as follows:

On June 4, Israel flagrantly launched a large-scale military invasion into Lebanon and has since forcibly occupied vast tracts of territory in central and southern Lebanon, bombed and attacked Lebanese cities and towns and the Palestinian refugee camps, thus causing bloodshed and loss of lives to tens of thousands of innocent people. At present, Israel is continuing to expand its acts of aggression under the camouflage of declaring a ceasefire and is pressing towards the urban area of Beirut, the capital of Lebanon.

The Israeli authorities, in brazen violation of the principles of international law, are carrying out naked aggression against a sovereign Arab state in a premeditated attempt to wipe out the resistance forces of the Palestinian people, thus committing another crime against the Arab people and seriously worsening the situation in the Middle East. The Chinese Government and people express the utmost indignation at and strongly condemn this Israeli act of aggression.

At a time when Israel's frenzied invasion of Lebanon is being condemned by the people of various countries unanimously, the US Government has openly used its veto power in the United Nations to obstruct the Security Council from adopting a draft resolution condemning Israel for its refusal to withdraw its troops. The United States should be condemned for abetting and supporting Israel in its aggression.

The Chinese Government has always held that Israel must withdraw from the Arab territories it occupied since 1967, that the Palestinian people must regain their national rights, including the right to return to their homeland, the right to self-determination and the right to establish a state, and that there must be a comprehensive and just settlement of the Middle East question. We firmly support the Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian armed forces and people in their just struggle to resist Israeli aggression and safeguard their national rights. Israel must abide by the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council, stop its aggression against Lebanon immediately and withdraw all its troops from Lebanon unconditionally.

We sincerely hope that the Arab countries and people will unite closely in a common struggle against the enemy. We call on all the peace-loving and justice-upholding countries and people to join their efforts to stop Israel's aggression, support the just cause of the Arab people and maintain peace in the Middle East.

POLITICAL

Outstanding Postal Workers Commended

During a decade of work, Liu Fuming made 3.4 million deliveries of mail and newspapers without a single error. She volunteered to work extra hours so she could acquaint herself with all 1,200 families she served, a total of more than 5,000 people.

She became familiar with what they needed and with the state of their correspondence, leading the local people to call her "a walking residential record book."

This 29-year-old woman in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province, is one of the 104 postal workers who received the title of honour "Outstanding Postal Worker" at a recent national conference in Beijing, sponsored jointly by the Ministry of Post and Telecom-

munications and the trade unions under it.

Another outstanding postal worker, 48-year-old Shao Laifa of Shanghai, has been a postman for 29 years. Since 1976, he has delivered 1,400 incorrectly addressed letters to the right recipients. Of these, 94 were from overseas Chinese and compatriots in Xianggang (Hongkong) and Aomen (Macao). Thanks to his effort, 26 families were reunited after many years' separation.

Aklamo, a 55-year-old postman of Tajik nationality in Xinjiang, was chosen to attend the conference because in the past 26 years he has made nearly 550,000 deliveries on the Pamir Plateau. He routinely crosses mountain slopes 5,000 metres above sea level and often grapples with wind and snow. He has already trekked 290,000 kilometres for his job.

The 104 who were awarded the title of honour were chosen from among the country's more than 100,000 postal workers who deliver an annual average of 20,000 million copies of newspapers and journals and 3,500 million pieces of mail. Thanks to their hard work, China's

Postwoman Liu Fuming.



postal service enjoys a high credibility. At present, there is a campaign to learn from the advanced in the various postal departments.

ECONOMIC

Peasants' Income Goes Up

The increase in per-capita income for Chinese peasants from 1979 to 1981 more than doubled the total increase registered in the two decades ending in 1976, according to a sample survey of 18,529 peasant households made by the State Statistical Bureau.

The survey was made in 568 counties in 28 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions (except Tibet). It shows that the average per-capita income of the peasant households surveyed reached 223.4 yuan in 1981, which was 89.8 yuan more than the 1978 figure, whereas the per-capita income increase from 1957 to 1976 was only 40.2 yuan.

In 1981, each member of these households earned on the average 116.2 yuan from taking part in collective production and 84.5 yuan from domestic sideline production, 31.3 and 136 per cent respectively more than in 1978.

These peasants' cash income in 1981 was on the average 153.2 yuan per capita, accounting for two-thirds of the annual total income. The figure for 1978 was only 63.9 yuan. This means that after deductions from their annual income expenses for food grain, edible oil and fuel, they had more money for buying the goods they wanted.

The survey also shows that the number of peasant households with higher incomes has increased, while those in the lower income bracket have decreased in number. The number of peasant families with an average per-capita income above 300 yuan a year accounted for 22.6 per cent of the peasant families in 1981 as against 2.4

per cent in 1978. The percentage of households with an average per-capita income below 150 yuan a year dropped from 65 per cent in 1978 to 19.7 per cent in 1981.

In the four prefectures in northwestern Shandong Province, which are among the 10 poorest areas in China, the peasants' average per-capita income rose to 247.5 yuan in 1981, which is 2.9 times that of 1978.

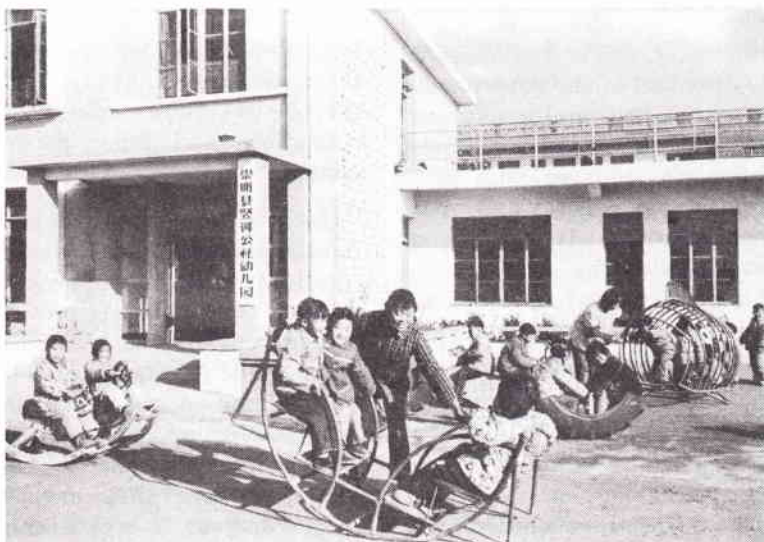
The survey pointed out that the major reason for the increased income is the implementation of the Party's rural economic policies. These include the responsibility system in agricultural production, the appropriate expansion of private plots, encouragement for domestic sideline occupations, and increased purchasing prices for the major farm products. Government statistics show that the "scissors" difference between the prices of industrial and agricultural products was reduced by 26.4 per cent as compared with 1978.

Economic Briefs

- A large modern coal mine with an annual production capacity of 900,000 tons has gone into operation in the Handan-Xingtai area in north China's Hebei Province.

It is called the Taozhuang No. 2 mine located near the Beijing-Guangzhou railway, a north-south railway artery. The area has eight coal seams with rich reserves of anthracite. Four other mines are under construction, each with a designed annual capacity of 900,000 to 1,800,000 tons.

The Handan-Xingtai coal base now has a total designed pro-



Welfare facilities have increased with the development of the rural collective economy. Picture shows a newly built kindergarten in a commune in Chongming County on the outskirts of Shanghai.

duction capacity of 12 million tons a year.

- A chemical fertilizer plant with a designed capacity of 60,000 tons of synthetic ammonia and 110,000 tons of urea has gone into operation in Pingdingshan in central China, which is a major coal centre producing 14 million tons of coal a year.

The plant, designed and built by Chinese engineers and technicians, went into trial production two years ago and smooth operation has been reported.

- The superstructure of Sichuan Province's Luzhou Changjiang (Yangtze) River bridge, the longest highway bridge in China, was completed on May 31 and will be opened to traffic on October 1.

The 1,255.6-metre-long main bridge, with 12 piers and two abutments, is so designed that it can withstand the largest floods that ever occurred in the province. The span of each of the three main bridge openings is 170 metres. The approaches along both river banks are seven kilometres long. The main bridge is 45 metres above the water during the dry season. During the high-water season, 7,000-ton ships can pass through.

- A large graphite deposit, the biggest in China, has been found near Jixi city in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, according to the province's geological department.

The deposit, suitable for open-pit mining, is estimated to have more than 300 million tons of high-grade ore in reserve.

- A large gypsum deposit with verified reserves topping 100 million tons has been discovered on the outskirts of Chongqing, Sichuan Province. The verified ore body is 1,600 metres long and 38 to 80 metres

thick, and the gypsum is mostly of the top grade.

EDUCATIONAL

Vocational and Technical Education

Vocational and technical secondary schools in China will enroll 630,000 new students this year. Of these 260,000 will be enrolled in specialized vocational schools, 170,000 in normal schools and 200,000 in technical schools.

During the period of readjusting the national economy, secondary education has undergone some structural changes. The number of senior middle schools has been reduced, while vocational and technical schools have been increased to train skilled and technical workers and primary school teachers. According to figures available at the end of 1981, vocational and technical secondary school students numbered 2.23 million, 23.1 per cent of the number of senior middle school students.

Since the founding of New China in 1949, vocational and technical training has received the attention of the government. Before the "cultural revolution" (1966-76), a dual educational system was adopted, with equal emphasis on general and vocational training. It was in conformity with the conditions in China, and played an important role in promoting vocational and technical education. By 1965, about 52 per cent of the nation's secondary school students were attending vocational and technical schools.

The "cultural revolution" was a catastrophe for Chinese education and the dual system came under fire. Vocational and

agricultural secondary schools were abolished and specialized technical education was greatly weakened. Too much emphasis was placed on expanding senior middle school education, with the result that while 360,000 students graduated from senior middle schools in 1965, by 1980 the figure had increased to 6.16 million.

During that period, enrolment in the universities and colleges increased from 165,000 to 281,000, and the number of senior middle school graduates who had the opportunity to continue their studies in colleges decreased from 45 per cent to 4 or 5 per cent, thereby posing a serious problem.

The lopsided expansion of senior middle schools also created problems for the national economy. Many trades and units urgently needed specialized people, but the senior middle school graduates had no professional knowledge or labour skills.

Beginning in 1979, steps were taken to encourage a variety of innovative educational programmes. Vocational and technical secondary schools as well as agricultural schools are now being operated by factories, mines, enterprises and as joint efforts by state educational institutions and other departments.

Liaoning Province, which is industrially developed, has made significant progress in promoting such education. At present, 41 per cent of the province's senior middle school students are studying in vocational and technical institutions. Provincial leaders realize that to train skilled workers, they have to serve two-year apprenticeships and that enterprises have to spend several thousand yuan on them, while giving two-year

vocational training to students is less expensive and has better results. Moreover, vocational school graduates have skills comparable with those of experienced workers and a certain level of theoretical knowledge.

Vocational and technical schools are also popular among parents, who prefer that their children master specific professional knowledge or skills rather than receive a general education.

Vocational and technical secondary schools are not responsible for finding jobs for their graduates who, instead, have to undergo examinations and are employed by factories or units according to their skills. This policy serves as an incentive for achievement and contributes to the quality of student performance. The No. 1 Vocational Secondary School in Jiamusi in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province had 771 graduates in 1981. An examination conducted by departments interested in employing them revealed that 30 per cent of the graduates had achieved the skill level of a first-grade worker, 40 per cent were equivalent to second-grade workers and 15 per cent to third-grade workers (eighth-grade workers are the most skilled).

SOCIAL

Hundred-Village Surveys

Most peasants now have enough to eat, more money in their pockets and more say in management, concluded 155 students after surveying their

home villages during the winter holiday last February.

They were students of economics and international politics from Beijing University and students of agricultural economics from the Beijing Agricultural College and the People's University of China. They sought to observe the changes in the countryside since the responsibility system was introduced. The students' 157 survey reports covered 140 counties in 27 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions.

They were happy to find that 76 per cent of the villages have conspicuously increased their farm output in the last three years and that 95 per cent of the peasants have improved their living standards to varying degrees.

While the production responsibility system is being implemented on a large scale, new forms of co-operation have appeared, the students' reports said. One of these forms is that while the peasant households run their affairs independently, they co-operate on matters a single family cannot handle. For instance, two or three households co-operate to sink wells for common use, and a dozen or so families pool their savings to set up factories for sideline occupations. During the busy farming season, they exchange labour and help one another, and in the slack season they pool money to do small business. Such voluntary co-operation based on the peasants' actual needs has done away with the old practice in which co-operation was tantamount to "merging," the students said.

Another form is that in many places, co-operation among individual peasant families is developing along specialized lines, which enables farming experts to concentrate on farming while skilled workmen engage in sideline occupations. In Huarong County, Hunan Province, 12,000 peasants specialize either in growing cotton, hemp or mulberry trees, raising pigs, fish or poultry, or engaging in handicrafts.

The students also called attention to a number of problems that had arisen in the course of instituting the responsibility system. Some of them reported that farmland in their villages was divided into tiny plots before being assigned to the peasants, which made it inconvenient for cultivation, and that some peasants tend to grow crops without giving due consideration to the needs of the state.

Some of the reports said that collectively owned equipment and installations had all been divided up among the peasants and that there was wanton felling of forests and destruction of other natural resources. Others drew attention to the fact that the building of new houses had taken up too much fertile land and that family planning had somewhat got out of control. In some villages, superstitious activities were rampant and public security left much to be desired.

These surveys not only helped the students to get a better understanding of the conditions in the countryside, but were of value to departments concerned in giving guidance to rural work.

Israel's Expansion Into Lebanon

ONLY about 12 hours after a ceasefire went into effect in Lebanon between Israeli invasion troops and Palestinian Liberation Organization forces, Israeli gunboats and artillery fired at Palestinian guerrillas positioned on the southern outskirts of Beirut on June 13. One hour after its announcement of the ceasefire with Syria, Israel began shooting at Syrian strongholds along the Beirut-Damascus Highway.

The actions followed a ceasefire agreement reached on June 11 and 12.

Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee Yasser Arafat had assured UN Secretary-General Javier Peres de Cuellar that the PLO would adhere to UN Security Council resolutions 508 and 509 which called for an immediate ceasefire and urged Israel to withdraw from Lebanon. At the same time, Syrian

President Assad presented his country's conditions for a ceasefire in talks with US Special Envoy Philip Habib — a complete Israeli withdrawal of its troops from Lebanon.

Israel had agreed to the ceasefire but soon broke it. Now the Israel's invading troops are only two hundred metres from the Lebanese Presidential Palace in Beirut. What's the sinister intention behind Israel's announcement of a ceasefire?

A Long-Premeditated Action

For months, the Israeli authorities have been preparing opinion for the invasion, clamouring that in order to ensure "Israel's peace and survival" it was necessary to "expand the limits of security borders." Begin declared that Israel harboured no expansionist ambition and it would "respect" the sovereign-

ty of Lebanon and its territory integrity. He asserted that the aim of Israeli action was only to push the Palestinian guerrillas 40 kilometres north, thus removing Israel's northern border area from Palestinian artillery fire.

Begin's assertion was only a cover for Israeli aggressive actions.

An official Israeli source quoted by Radio Israel said that Israeli troops would "stay" in Lebanon until the kind of "political solution" it had demanded was found. It was reported that Israel's so-called "political solution" would include the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon, the establishment of a "free zone" controlled by UN forces covering 40 kilometres north of the Israeli border, and the assurance that the Palestinian armed forces would not return to southern Lebanon.

The Israeli authorities have tried to stamp out the revolutionary cause of Palestine by wearing down the effective strength of the Palestinian armed forces and forcing the Palestinians to reside in northern Lebanon. They have also tried to strangle the Palestinian people's desire to establish an independent state on their own territory, and to force the Palestinians to accept autonomy negotiations. Israel seeks to pave the way for its own annexation of the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip.

It is not accidental that Israel launched a massive invasion of Lebanon. With Egypt's recovery of the Sinai, the demand of the Arab countries and world opinion for a just solution to the Middle East problem and for the return of the legitimate rights to



Israel's aggressive thrusts



Areas of fierce fighting

the Palestinian people is gaining support. Meanwhile, the Arab nations are divided in their stand towards the Iranian-Iraqi war and the resumption of relations with Egypt. Israel seems to believe the time has come for it to launch aggression against Lebanon. It wants to present a fait accompli and thus compel the Arab countries to give in.

But history advances along its own course. The Palestinian revolutionary forces can never be liquidated and Lebanese people will never be reconciled to losing its territory to Israeli occupiers.

Worldwide Condemnation

Israel's gross violation of the principles of international law and its defiance of the international community have aroused indignation all over the world. Many countries, including Arab and Islamic countries, have indicated their readiness to render aid and support to Lebanon, Syria and PLO in their resistance against Israeli aggressors.

But Israel continues to be abetted by the US. The US veto of the June 8 UN Security Council resolution condemning Israel's refusal to withdraw its troops is further evidence of the US biased stance towards Israel. Such injudicious behaviour on the part of the United States naturally drew heavy fire from those everywhere who uphold justice.

China has strongly condemned Israel's aggression and expressed its firm support of the Palestinian and Arab people in their struggle against Israeli aggression and expansion, and for a just and reasonable solution to the Middle East problem. In a June 11 article condemning Israel, the *Renmin Ribao* Commentator said: "Israel, under the aegis of the United

States, may indulge in aggressions for a time, but indulgence in evil courts destruction. Its

policy of aggression and expansion is doomed to utter defeat."
— *Zhong Tai*

New Turn in Chad

THE Northern Armed Forces of former Defence Minister Hissene Habre captured Chad's capital Ndjamen on June 7 and President Goukouni Weddeye reportedly fled to neighbouring Cameroon.

A Long Civil War

The Chadian civil war has continued for a long time because of the complex contradictions among ethnic groups, religions and regions.

In August 1979, a ceasefire agreement was reached among the 11 groups in Chad through mediation by the Organization of African Unity and neighbouring countries. The Chadian Transitional Government of National Unity was formally established in November 1979 with Goukouni as President and Habre as the Minister of Defence. However, the contradictions among the various groups were not resolved. Sub-

sequently, a large-scale armed conflict between the People's Armed Forces led by President Goukouni and the Northern Armed Forces led by Habre erupted and chaos developed.

In the autumn of 1980 Goukouni asked Libya for aid. Libya sent a large number of troops to Chad and Habre's troops withdrew from the capital and went into the eastern mountainous area to continue the war.

Africa's Efforts

African countries strongly opposed the Libyan intervention in the civil war in Chad. Last June the 18th OAU summit conference asked foreign troops to withdraw from Chad and decided to send an inter-African peace-keeping force to Chad to maintain defence and stability. After the Libyan troops withdrew, the peace-keeping force from six African countries entered Chad. Although Goukouni asked the inter-African peace-keeping force to help him to fight the Habre's troops, his proposal was rejected by the OAU because they considered the war between Goukouni and Habre an internal affair of Chad. The inter-African peace-keeping force was dispatched to prevent foreign intervention while maintaining absolute neutrality towards the internal disputes. Goukouni was dissatisfied with this and again asked for Libyan troops but Libya refused.

Last February the OAU Standing Committee on Chad



1. NIGERIA 2. CAMEROON

held a meeting in Nairobi to seek the political solution which all the Chadian factions could accept and thus prevent foreign intervention. The resolution adopted at the meeting asked the Chadian Transitional Government of National Unity to hold talks with Habre, leader of the Northern Armed Forces, before June 30, 1982, organize legislative and presidential elections and install the new institutions. It reaffirmed that the inter-African peace-keeping force did not favour any faction. Goukouni and others consistently refused to talk with Habre, but Habre who had an edge on the battlefield expressed acceptance of the OAU's resolution and a willingness to hold discussions with Goukouni and others to solve the Chadian problem.

Over the last two months the Northern Armed Forces led by Habre have attacked and seized control of many places including some major towns. After consultation among Goukouni, Vice-President Wadal Abdelkader Kamougue and leaders of other factions the state committee headed by Kamougue was set up in mid-May. The new government was formed on June 2. It was reported that the formation of the new government was probably to remove obstacles in implementing the OAU's resolution. But before this government could act, the situation on the battlefield has changed drastically.

On June 8, the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity and President Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya issued a statement on the Chadian situation. He appealed to all factions in Chad to avoid further bloodshed and military

confrontation with the inter-African peace-keeping force still in Chad.

The situation in Chad is still unfolding. The people of Chad and other Central African coun-

tries desire peace and stability. All hope the efforts of the OAU and the Chadian people will yield peaceful reunification soon.

— Xu Dewen

A Difficult Summit in Versailles

THE seven-nation Western summit closed at Versailles, France on June 6 after reaching compromises on some issues but leaving serious differences unresolved on many questions of substance arising from the deepening economic crisis.

US High Interest Rates and Money Market. Western Europe and Canada regard the US policy of high interest rates as a significant cause for the disorder in the money market, for the dollar's rising exchange rates against other Western currencies and for the failure of economic recovery in Western Europe and Canada. They want the United States to reduce its budget deficits and interest rates and intervene in the fluctuations of the money market so as to ensure a stable exchange parity. France hopes to see a world monetary system that would link the US dollar and the Japanese yen with the European currencies.

The United States, however, has refused to lower its interest rates since the 1981 summit. At the Versailles summit it only agreed to state in an appendix to the final communique that the participating countries would intervene, if necessary, in the disorder in the monetary market.

French President Francois Mitterrand noted that this statement represents progress, but he pointed out that the state-

ment is so ambiguous that practically the United States has undertaken no concrete obligations.

Trade Credit With the Soviet Union. The United States claims that Western Europe's trade credits to the Soviet Union are so large and generous that they have virtually become subsidies that help strengthen Soviet military potential. Prior to the summit, high US officials visited West European countries in a vain attempt to advise them to curb credits to the Soviet Union.

This US dispute with Western Europe and Canada became the sharpest at the summit. The US Treasury Secretary said the Western countries should cherish their common interests in face of Soviet threats. The French President argued that West European trade with the Soviet Union is very insignificant because it accounts for only one per cent of the Soviet gross national product. The West German Chancellor pointed out that French and West German trade with the Soviet Union and the East European bloc has dropped 20 and 25 per cent respectively since 1978, while US trade with this region has increased 50 per cent.

After much wrangling, an agreement was finally reached that the participating nations would, for the sake of political and security interests, limit

their credits and strategic materials exports to the Soviet Union. It is also believed that the West European countries and Canada agreed to raise their interest rates of loans to the Soviet Union from 10.5 to 11.5 per cent.

For competitions at the world market, Western industrial countries, in spite of their own protectionist measures, have consistently urged other countries to open their domestic markets to the outside world. The Versailles summit reaffirmed its opposition to protectionism but adopted no specific measures against it.

On North-South Relations. France and some other countries adopted a positive attitude towards North-South dialogue because they saw it as a way to ensure their raw materials' supply and commodity markets and free themselves of econom-

ic crises. But the United States was not so enthusiastic. The summit only agreed to support global negotiations on North-South relations but did not go deeply into this important question.

A concrete result of the summit was the approval of a report entitled "Technology, Employment and Economic Growth" submitted by the French President. The report calls for economic and social developments and the creation of more job opportunities through the advances of science and technology, as a route out of the economic crisis.

It is generally held in Paris that the results of the summit reflect a trend among the Western countries to seek compromises through consultations in a joint effort to tackle their critical economic problems.

— *Xin Ping*

Goldwater Goes Against Trend Of Times

US Republican Senator Barry Goldwater was engaged in opposing the Chinese Government and sabotaging Sino-US relations during his recent visit to Taiwan.

Harping on Wrong Notes

Goldwater was reportedly invited to spend a vacation there with his family by the Taipei American Chamber of Commerce but he was busy with extensive meetings and contacts with the Taiwan authorities and people of various circles, and talked to reporters several times. He maintained that Taiwan is the "largest aircraft carrier" in the world and the United States should recognize only Taiwan as "free China." He opposed China's reunification and attacked the nine-point propo-

sal of the Chinese Government for the peaceful reunification as "propaganda" and a "prelude" to the use of force against Taiwan. He called for the implementation of the "Taiwan Relations Act" and rebuked any amendment to that act. He promised to press the Reagan administration to continue the arms sales and the sale of more jet fighters to Taiwan.

Goldwater's utterances are the same old anti-communist and anti-China tunes he has been singing for years. But the location and timing of his remarks cannot be ignored.

Sabotaging US-China Relations

Goldwater's trip to Taiwan was arranged at a time when

Sino-US relations are undergoing a severe test. Ten years after the Shanghai Communique and three years after the normalization of relations between the United States and China, the US Government continues to sell arms to Taiwan under the pretext of implementing the "Taiwan Relations Act" which is in violation of the Shanghai Communique and the communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The negotiations between China and the United States over this issue have continued for more than 10 months, but the problem remains unresolved. The danger of a retrogression in Sino-US relations still exists.

The real purpose of Goldwater's venomous utterances in Taiwan is to sabotage Sino-US relations.

Goldwater is aware that most people and many politicians in the United States desire further development of Sino-US relations and consider a reversal not to be in the interest of either country or world peace. Still he is bent on going against the trend of history. He is a die-hard, closing his eyes to today's reality and the overall situation.

Opposing the Reunification Of China

Goldwater made his hostile remarks against China in Taiwan at a time when the Chinese Government's proposal for a peaceful reunification is striking root in the hearts of Chinese on both sides of the Taiwan Straits. To slander the proposal of the Chinese Government and sabotage the reunification of China is another purpose of his trip. Goldwater styles himself as "an old friend of China" but,

in fact, is hostile to New China and her one billion people. Not long ago, he accused the Chinese Government of "interfering in the United States' internal affairs" by opposing the US arms sales to Taiwan, and urged the US Government to stand up to the "Chinese threat." Subsequently he has travelled to Taiwan, a province of China, to shout his support for "free China" against socialist New China, thus flagrantly interfering in China's internal affairs. Goldwater's behaviour reveals that his mind is still full of the power politics of the 19th century; he thinks he has the right

to determine the destiny of the Chinese people.

Goldwater's visit to Taiwan is not an isolated incident. There is a small group of anti-China diehards in the United States and Goldwater is their agent. Few in number, they harbour oversized ambitions.

History is flowing ahead and time will move forward. In the long run, Sino-US relations are bound to develop and China will reunify. Anti-China diehards, no matter how arrogant, will be swept aside by the currents of history.

— Yu Enguang

ASEAN Adjusts Its Foreign Economic Policies

THE five member states of the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) have readjusted their foreign economic policies to develop economic co-operation with other third world countries.

In the past few years, the economies of Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines have been affected by the economic recession and trade protectionism of the West. As a result, foreign trade has substantially declined and their international balances of payments have worsened.

While trying to improve economic relations with Western countries, the ASEAN member states have actively developed economic co-operation with other third world countries. High-ranking officials and economic, trade and technical delegations have been sent to some Asian, African and Latin American countries for visits or

to attend international fairs. As a result of these contacts, joint committees, economic co-operation groups and joint companies have been established. Trade between the ASEAN member states and non-member third world countries has sharply increased.

Exports from Singapore to Africa totalled 1,916 million Singapore dollars (2.1 Singapore dollars equal one US dollar) in 1980, an increase of 87 per cent over the previous year. Indonesia's exports to the Middle East were valued 130 million US dollars last year compared to 79.3 million US dollars in 1980.

Joint investment enterprises by ASEAN member states and other third world countries have also been established. By the end of 1981, private companies in Singapore had signed agreements with 25 manufacturers in Sri Lanka for the joint

production of textiles, printed goods, car parts and diamonds.

Singapore and Bangladesh have built factories with joint investment to manufacture clocks, watches, calculators and clothing. Indonesia and India have signed 11 agreements to establish joint enterprises producing steel, cement and sugar. Malaysia and Kuwait established a joint Straits of Malacca oil refinery in Malaysia last year.

Since the beginning of this year, Malaysia has been receiving investments from Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates to develop co-operative manufacturing industries. The Philippines recently signed agreements for economic co-operation with Saudi Arabia in industry, agriculture, communications and construction.

The ASEAN member states have also increased their scientific co-operation with other third world countries. Singapore is training Sri Lankan technicians to repair ships and manufacture textiles, garments and electronic appliances.

Malaysia has agreed to provide technical assistance and train personnel in the production of rubber and palm oil for Brazil and Bangladesh. Indonesia has signed agreements with India and Pakistan to develop nuclear energy.

Economic co-operation between the ASEAN member states and third world countries is developing rapidly. It has a promising future because the ASEAN member states have rich natural resources and desire to develop their economies.

— Zhang Junli

China's Position on Disarmament

- An agreement should be reached by all the nuclear states not to use nuclear weapons. Pending such an agreement, each nuclear state should, without attaching any condition, undertake not to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states and nuclear weapon free zones, and not to be the first to use such weapons against each other at any time and under any circumstances.
- Conventional disarmament should be effected simultaneously with nuclear disarmament as a first step. All states should undertake not to use conventional armaments for intervention or aggression against and military occupation of any country.
- If the two superpowers take the lead in halting the testing, improving or manufacturing of nuclear weapons and in reducing their nuclear weapons by 50 per cent, the Chinese Government is ready to join all other nuclear states in undertaking to stop the development and production of nuclear weapons and to further reduce and ultimately destroy them altogether.



HUANG Hua, Chairman of the Chinese Government Delegation, State Councillor and Foreign Minister, in his speech on June 11 at the Second Special Session of the UN General Assembly devoted to disarmament, expounded China's principled stand on disarmament and, on behalf of the Chinese Government, put forward the principal measures for an immediate end to the arms race and for disarmament.

Huang Hua pointed out that since the 1978 First Special Session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament, the world situation

has remained in tension. "This was mainly due to the acts of expansion and aggression by the hegemonists and to the intensified arms race and fierce rivalry between the two superpowers. One superpower has been pressing forward to expand its sphere of influence. Not wishing to be outdone, the other superpower has exerted its utmost to build up its strength and to try to regain its former position of world supremacy. The two superpowers have been contending for world hegemony. Their rivalry extends to all parts of the globe, thus threatening the independence and sovereignty of small and medium-sized countries as well as world peace and security. As a result, more hot spots have been created, thereby aggravating the already tense international situation."

Reasons for No Progress in Disarmament.

He said: In the past four years, no real progress has been made in disarmament. "This is because the two superpowers are not at all sincere about disarmament and have instead stepped up arms expansion. They have started a new round of the arms race, each striving to improve or upgrade its own strategic and theatre nuclear weapons in order to gain superiority over the other. At the same time, they have been developing conventional armaments, vying for the control of strategic areas and stepping up war preparations."

Huang Hua said: "In recent years, the people of Europe, Japan, the United States and elsewhere have launched a mass movement against the nuclear arms race of the two superpowers and for preventing nuclear war. We fully understand and sympathize with their concern for peace and for the prevention of war."

He said: "As the arms race intensifies and the menace of war increases, the third world and other small and medium-sized countries demand all the more strongly that progress be made in disarmament and that results be achieved at this session. They are fully entitled to do so because they are always the first to suffer from the two superpowers' rivalry and from the aggression and expansion by the hegemons."

The Two Superpowers' Stance Towards Disarmament. Talking about the two superpowers' professed desire for disarmament and their various proposals or programmes, Huang Hua said: "Now one superpower stresses that an arms freeze should come first while the other insists on priority for arms reduction. They appear to be talking about the need to maintain a balance of arms, but in fact each side wants to attain supremacy and to strengthen its own position in the contest for world hegemony by means of a new round of the arms race."

Huang Hua emphatically pointed out that the posturizing on the part of one superpower is particularly noteworthy. Every year it produces an assortment of proposals or plans which are merely variations on the same theme. But what concrete actions has it really taken? None. One is bound to ask the following questions:

"Is it not ironic that the superpower which pledged at the last special session that it 'has never unleashed war and will never do so' turned around only one year later to send 100,000 troops to invade and occupy Afghanistan? Surely these troops were not sent there on a sight-seeing tour.

"Why is it that this superpower which talks glibly about prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons has always refused to undertake unconditionally to 'renounce the use of nuclear weapons' against non-nuclear states?

"If this superpower is truly willing to implement 'confidence building measures' in Asia, why does it not establish its credibility by withdrawing its troops immediately and uncondi-

tionally from Afghanistan and stopping its support for the aggression against Kampuchea?

"This superpower has been describing 'detente' in such glowing terms. Why then has it effected such a dramatic increase in its nuclear and conventional armaments precisely during the so-called 'decade of detente'? Either it was trying to promote 'detente' by means of arms expansion, or it was carrying out arms expansion under the camouflage of 'detente'?"

He said: "Any cursory comparison between this superpower's pronouncements and its actions will provide the right answer." This superpower, "is merely trying to cover up the truth, deceive the people of the world and divert their attention from the objectives of disarmament so that it can press on with its hegemonic policies of nuclear arms expansion, blackmail and war preparations."

China Stands for Genuine Disarmament

Huang Hua said: "The Chinese Government and people have always stood for genuine disarmament and made positive efforts towards progress in disarmament. Since the 1960s, the Chinese Government has put forward on a number of occasions its views and proposals on disarmament and on strengthening international security. We have always opposed the arms race and the threat or use of force in international relations, and we are against any country carrying out aggression or expansion by means of superior military strength. China is in favour of Soviet-US talks on nuclear disarmament, hoping that the two countries would take a serious and responsible attitude to reach agreement genuinely helpful to bringing the nuclear arms race to an end and preventing a nuclear war, and that they would not follow the same old road which has, instead of leading to the reduction of nuclear armament, left much room for improving their nuclear weapons."

Principal Measures. Huang Hua reiterated the basic principles followed by the Chinese Government with regard to disarmament and put before the session the principal measures for an immediate end to the arms race and for disarmament.

He said: "An agreement should be reached by all the nuclear states not to use nuclear weapons. Pending such an agreement, each nuclear state should, without attaching any condition, undertake not to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states and nuclear weapon free zones, and not to be the first to use such

weapons against each other at any time and under any circumstances."

"The Soviet Union and the United States should stop testing, improving or manufacturing nuclear weapons and should reduce by 50 per cent all types of their nuclear weapons and means of delivery."

"After that, all other nuclear states should also stop testing, improving or manufacturing nuclear weapons and should reduce their respective nuclear arsenals according to an agreed proportion and procedure."

"Conventional disarmament should be effected simultaneously with nuclear disarmament as a first step. All states should undertake not to use conventional armaments for intervention or aggression against and military occupation of any country."

In explaining these measures, Huang Hua said: The first step in nuclear disarmament should be the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons to be followed by their progressive reduction and ultimate destruction. "If the nuclear states refrain from threatening non-nuclear states and undertake unconditionally not to use nuclear weapons against them, then these states will have no need to possess nuclear weapons or seek foreign nuclear protection. If a nuclear state does not first ask itself whether it is posing any threat to non-nuclear states but holds them responsible and demand that they undertake not to threaten it, wouldn't that be as absurd as putting the cart before the horse?"

It is our view that conventional disarmament should be effected simultaneously with nuclear disarmament, he continued. "One can only assume two circumstances in which a nuclear war may break out: either the nuclear powers engage each other in a nuclear war from the very beginning, or they may begin by a conventional war which may escalate to a nuclear conflict. If we direct our efforts solely to the prevention of a nuclear war and relax our vigilance against a conventional war, that may still leave open the possibility of the outbreak of a nuclear war. The superpowers often use their conventional armaments as a means of aggression and expansion."

He stressed that the two superpowers should be the first to carry out substantial arms reduction in nuclear as well as conventional armaments. Since countries vary in size and military strength, should we require the stronger states to reduce their armaments so as to ensure the security of the weaker ones, or demand



"After you, sir!"

"After you, sir!"

Cartoon by Chen Fengxiang

Reprinted from "China Daily"

equal and simultaneous reduction of arms by all countries?

China Is Prepared to Undertake Obligation for Disarmament. Huang Hua said: "The views that I have just outlined indicate the obligation China is prepared to undertake for disarmament. In point of fact, the Chinese Government has long since repeatedly pledged to the world that at no time and under no circumstances will China be the first to use nuclear weapons and that it undertakes unconditionally not to use such weapons against non-nuclear states. This amply shows the good faith of the Chinese Government on the question of disarmament. I would like to announce here that if the two superpowers take the lead in halting the testing, improving or manufacturing of nuclear weapons and in reducing their nuclear weapons by 50 per cent, the Chinese Government is ready to join all other nuclear states in undertaking to stop the development and production of nuclear weapons and to further reduce and ultimately destroy them altogether."

The Fundamental Guidelines of China's Foreign Policy

Huang Hua said: "The basic principles of the Chinese Government concerning disarmament and the essential measures for disarmament I have just outlined emanate from China's foreign policy of peace. The fundamental guide-

lines of China's foreign policy are: Unite with the third world and all other peace loving countries; oppose hegemonism; and maintain world peace.

"China needs an extended period of stable and peaceful international environment in order to attain the lofty goal of her modernization programme by the end of this century," he declared. "Only in peace can our economic development go forward and our people's needs be satisfied."

He said: "China's social system and fundamental interests require that we pursue a policy of peace. We do not need war and we firmly oppose a new world war. China's armaments, including her nuclear capabilities, are entirely for the purpose of self-defence against foreign aggression.

"China does not have a single soldier outside her own borders and never seeks any bases

on foreign soil. Neither does she have any territorial ambitions. Our record shows that we were forced to act in self-defence only when a war of aggression was imposed on us. We will not countenance aggression or threat against ourselves, and we never pose any threat to others."

Huang Hua said in conclusion: "Disarmament is, in the final analysis, a question of how to prevent war and maintain peace, so it is bound to attract the attention and arouse the concern of the people throughout the world. So long as the people of all countries unite in a persistent and relentless struggle against war of aggression, it will be possible to maintain world peace. The people's struggle is a powerful impetus to disarmament and maintenance of world peace. Our task is to make concerted efforts for the realization of genuine disarmament in conformity with the wishes of the people of the world." □

News Roundup

Latest Developments in Tibet

IS Tibet, the legendary roof of the world, no more than a "land of desolation" where "the worst is what is left and most of the good is gone"? And what of the people's lives and spirits?

"Before I returned home I had been told that life in Tibet was very hard and that people had no freedom," said a 67-year-old former government official who returned in 1980. "But what I have seen here is just the opposite."

"Compared with the living standards when I left here [for India] in 1959, things have improved greatly. Everyone has food to eat, clothes to wear and money to spend. Some people even have radios, tape recorders and TV sets. This was unimaginable when I was in exile abroad," continued Losang Danzeng in a recent interview.

"I had been told abroad that Tibet's autonomy was in name only. The fact is, many regional leaders and all county-level

leaders are Tibetan. Tibetans are actually their own masters," he said.

Government policies for Tibet have been to aid its advance into the modern world while helping it to preserve its own language, culture and national heritage. The following is a roundup of recent events in the Tibet Autonomous Region.

Ngapo Ngawang-Jigme (second from the right), Vice-Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee and Chairman of the Tibetan Autonomous Regional Government, and **Yang Dongsheng** (first from the left, Tibetan), Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Regional People's Congress, chatting with Tibetan peasants.



Greater Autonomy. The Tibet Autonomous Region has been given power over an increasing spectrum of internal affairs in the last two years, according to local authorities.

The region now assumes authority in matters of appointment of leaders, passage and amendment of laws, economic and development policies, taxation, cultural affairs, language instruction and work assignments for college graduates.

The freedoms are enacted within the framework of central government policies, but broad latitude is permitted within those limits.

The Regional People's Congress Standing Committee has in the past two years enacted or approved nine decrees, including modifications of China's marriage law and criminal procedural law. All government documents are written in both Tibetan and Han, China's majority language.

More than 54 per cent of the officials in the region are drawn from the region's own minority nationalities, while most government leaders and all People's Congress Standing Committee heads are Tibetans.

The new draft of the revised Constitution makes special administrative allowances for all autonomous regions, prefectures and counties, permitting regional laws, policies and decrees, and the amendment of anything promulgated by the Central Government not in accord with autonomous area conditions.

Training Tibetan Cadres. More than 5,000 cadres of Tibetan and other minority nationalities are taking part in full-time studies to upgrade skills in order to keep pace with growing economic and cultural developments.

More than 7,000 minority cadres at various levels were already trained through such studies between the second half of 1980 and 1981, according to a survey made by the region's organization department.

In the past few years, a large number of minority cadres in Tibet have been promoted to leading posts. They are young and have many good qualities. However, most of them are barely competent for their work because they have had little schooling and have acquired few professional skills. Less than half have the equivalent of a junior middle school education.

The regional Party committee describes the efforts to educate cadres as being of paramount importance.



De Qu, a Tibetan woman geological worker, who was recently promoted to an engineer's position.

Party schools are running two-year courses for cadres who are above the county-level to bring them up to junior middle school standards. Institutions of higher learning and secondary technical schools are offering technical and vocational courses for leading cadres and staff members. The period of study ranges from six months to three years. The trainees are required to pass a final examination before graduation.

Help From the Central Government. Tibet is the only area among China's 29 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions that provides free medical treatment and free films to all peasants and herdsmen and free education for all children, according to Xinhua News Agency.

The cost of these programmes is met by subsidies from the Central Government.

Government statistics show that in the past two years, the region has received more than 1.04 billion yuan in subsidies from the Central Government or 98 per cent of the region's budget. The subsidies will increase 10 per cent annually for the next few years.

Since the introduction in 1980 of the new economic policies in Tibet, including exemption from agricultural and animal husbandry taxes and industrial and commercial taxes on collective and individual enterprises, more than one-third of the financial subsidies have gone to improving living standards or to lessening the burden of the peasants and herdsmen. They have benefited 229 yuan each.

More than 95 per cent of the commodities now on sale in the Tibet Autonomous Region are transported from inland provinces and municipalities. Most of the cereals, edible oil and

meat supplied to town dwellers are carried thousands of miles, according to the region's food department. All these commodities are sold at a discount.

Redemption Policy Consciously Carried Out.

In May, the people's government of the Tibet Autonomous Region allocated 3,146,500 yuan (RMB) to repay former manorial lords, herd-owners and monasteries for their confiscated livestock and property.

A total of 1,158 Tibetan households are entitled to payments for their livestock, stockbreeding tools, land, houses and yurts which were unfairly confiscated in the 1970s, under the prevailing "Leftist" influence.

Entitled to the redemption funds are those people who did not participate in the 1959 armed rebellion against the Central Government. Led by some of Tibet's upper strata eight years after the region's peaceful liberation, the revolt was short-lived and many rebel leaders and their followers fled to India.

During Tibet's democratic reform of 1959, aimed at ending serfdom, the Central People's Government decided to evaluate and buy up surplus land and other assets of the hereditary nobility who did not take part in the upper strata rebellion. This was completed in the early 1960s.

Moreover, a policy was implemented in 1959 that benefited both the herdsmen and non-rebel herdowners. The latter retained their property, and the herdsmen continued to tend the live-

stock, but the two sides shared the income from the herd (once only the domain of the owners). Thus exploitation was reduced.

However, during the period of socialist transformation carried out in Tibet in the 1970s, this policy of redemption was sabotaged by "Leftist" influences. The livestock of herd-owners and monasteries was confiscated and turned over to rural people's communes as part of their collective property.

In March 1981, the regional people's government decided to correct these wrongs and to pay for the confiscated property of manorial lords, herdowners and monasteries in the pastoral areas.

After a year of careful investigations, the local government gave certificates to the people entitled to receive payments and this year paid the compensation due them.

Tax Exemptions for Three More Years. Agriculture and animal husbandry in Tibet will be tax-exempt for three more years (effective from this year) and taxation on collectively owned industrial and commercial enterprises and individual businesses will also be suspended for another year, regional authorities announced in May.

Following 1980 directives from central authorities, the Regional People's Government relaxed restrictions on economic affairs. This included a two-year suspension of taxes on agriculture, animal husbandry, industry and commerce.

Statistics from the regional taxation bureau show that in 1980 and 1981 the region exempted a total of 13.75 million yuan in taxes, and that in 1981 the average annual income per capita was 200 yuan, or a 57 per cent increase over 1979.

The decision to extend the tax exemptions was based on an analysis of agriculture and animal husbandry and on the relatively low living standards of the people.

Taxes on agriculture and animal husbandry in Ngari Prefecture, a remote area, will be suspended for four more years, the decision said. Peasants and herdsmen will also be exempt from taxation on privately owned land and animals and on household sideline occupations. Enterprises run by rural people's communes and production brigades will continue to be exempt from industrial and commercial taxation under the decision.



Production has improved greatly at the Hongqi (Red Flag) commune in the grazing areas of northern Tibet since it was exempted from animal husbandry taxes and adopted the responsibility system two years ago.

The decision was formally announced to the people in Tibetan and Han languages.

Low-Interest Loans Available for Trade Enterprises. Tibetan trade enterprises can now receive loans at a preferential interest rate.

According to a circular issued at the end of March by the Tibet branch of the People's Bank of China and the regional bureau of finance, the annual rate has been reduced from 7.2 per cent to 3.96 per cent, effective from last January 1.

The local bank will refund the excess loan interest paid between January 1 and the publication of the new policy.

Tibet's economy is underdeveloped. The circulation of commodities is slow and working capital is tied up. Nearly half of the capital is bank loans. Thus the decision helps develop local trade.

It is estimated that the decision will result in an annual savings of more than 5,700,000 yuan in loan interest for trade enterprises in Tibet.

Enterprises eligible for the preferential interest rate are regional trade, petroleum, pharmaceuticals, foreign trade, farm machinery and spare parts companies and supply and marketing co-operatives.

All loans to peddlers and individual shopkeepers already are interest free.

Border Barter Trade Flourishes. Barter — trading goods for goods without using money — is alive and well on the Tibet-Bhutan border.

The total volume of small trading transactions between Tibet's Yadong (Chomo) County and the small country of Bhutan, China's neighbour to the southwest, reached an estimated value of 220,000 yuan (RMB) in 1981. This was the highest since Tibet's democratic reform in 1959.

Barter was a flourishing practice in Yadong County for many years until it was disrupted by the 10-year "cultural revolution." However, following central authority directives about Tibet in 1980, the Yadong-Bhutan barter trade gradually was revived.

In an effort to promote border trade, the Yadong County government reopened five tax-free barter points. Beginning in 1980, accommodations for foreign barterers were provided in the border towns of Pagri, Xiayadong (Chomomai) and Xarsingmazhen.



Carpets and rugs, both traditional national handicrafts turned out by the Lhasa Carpet Factory, sell well abroad.

In 1981 more than 2,700 people in 800 groups travelled from Bhutan to Yadong with rice, flour, red tea, woollen fabrics and bamboo-ware to barter for dairy products, woollen mats, Tibetan garments and other daily necessities.

The growing trade helped build the economy and enhance friendship between the peoples on the borders.

Tibetan Language Publications Increase. The Tibet People's Publishing House in Lhasa produced 30 titles in the Tibetan language in 1981 as against 12 the previous year. This was the largest number of Tibetan publications the publishing house produced since it was set up 10 years ago.

In addition, the publishing house produced four titles in both the Tibetan and the Han language.

The new books include an epic, folk tales, plays, medical classics, dictionaries and the Tibetan almanac.

The first three volumes of an ancient Tibetan folk epic *King Gesar* is one recent publication. It records the social life, aspirations, morality and customs of ancient Tibet. It has been handed down orally and in manuscripts and Xylographic copies.

Another newly published popular book in Tibetan is *Sagya's Sayings*, a collection of poems, with new annotations. Numerous folk

songs and common sayings of the Tibetan people are in the collection.

Tibetans are buying books and other publications in great numbers due to their steadily rising living standards. More than 2 million books in 120 titles were sold by the bookstores in Tibet last year, an increase of 74 per cent over 1980. The bestsellers were *King Gesar*, a collection of Tibetan plays, and the Tibetan almanac which provides information on farming and stockbreeding seasons and weather forecasts for every month.

The Tibetan language, dating back to the 7th century, remained in the stage of hand copying and block-printing until the liberation of Tibet in 1951.

Hospital of Traditional Tibetan Medicine. A new hospital that dispenses traditional Tibetan medicine was opened in Tibet's Xigaze Prefecture in April, according to the public health bureau of the autonomous region.

The hospital is the second of its kind in Tibet. The other one is in Lhasa, capital of the region. The Xigaze facility employs 39 people including 20 doctors of Tibetan traditional medicine and 9 nurses, and has departments of internal medicine and surgery. The 50-bed hospital has a floor space of 1,574 square metres.

Tibetan medicine and pharmacology are important components of traditional Chinese medicine. The government has exerted great efforts to revive Tibetan medicine. Last year, 630,000 yuan was allocated for Tibetan medicine projects. Funds for this purpose have increased at an average rate of 10 per cent since 1976.

Now all county hospitals in Xigaze Prefecture have departments of Tibetan medicine, each with two or three doctors. The prefectural health school also has classes in Tibetan medicine.

Small Hydroelectric Power Stations. The construction of 53 small hydroelectric power stations in 1981 has brought the number of such power stations in Tibet to 808 with total generating capacity of 76,900 kilowatts, according to the water conservancy bureau of Tibet Autonomous Region.

Of the 808 small stations, 792 are in the agricultural and pastoral areas and most of them were built with state funds and are now owned by people's communes.

The development of small hydroelectric power stations is of vital importance to the region's economy and to solving the problem of energy shortage in the region. The region's natural conditions favour the development of small hydroelectric power stations, the bureau stated. The water power potential in Tibet is estimated at 200 million kilowatts or 29.4 per cent of the country's total, ranking second in the country.

About 1,430 hectares of farmland are irrigated using hydroelectric power and irrigation facilities have been improved on 6,600 hectares of pasture.

The energy-poor central part of the region was once drought-prone. With electricity now available, water can be pumped from wells, a boost to the area's harvests, the bureau said.

Nearly one-third of Tibet's communes now enjoy the use of electricity.

To explore the rich water resources in Tibet, the Party Central Committee and the Central Government have sent many engineers and technicians there from other provinces to help build hydroelectric stations. The state provides all the funds for the construction.

Before liberation, Tibet had only one small generator which provided electricity for a mint and lighting for some of the nobility.

Trials of Wind-Driven Generators. Two small wind-driven generators went successfully into experimental use in April this year on the north Tibetan grasslands, at an average altitude of 4,500 metres above sea level.

The generators were installed near the town of Heihe in Nagqu Prefecture, a leader in animal husbandry for the region. They provide electricity for lighting and small machinery including milk separators and film projectors.

No electricity is available at present on the north Tibetan grasslands because the area lacks water and coal. Nagqu has poor communications and the herdsmen there live very far apart. The one good source of power is the wind. There are 160 to 230 windy days per year on the grasslands. Annual velocity averages about five metres per second and the highest 24 metres per second. The small wind-driven generators are reliable, simple to operate and inexpensive.

Butter-oil lamps and candles are still the main source of light on the grasslands. □

Visits and Letters From the People

by Our Correspondent Zhou Zheng

The system of interviewing visitors and handling letters from the public, which was established in the early 50s, has played an increasingly important role in Chinese people's political life over the past few years. It helps inform the Party and government of the people's demands, closes the ties between the two and strengthens the people's supervision over cadres. Following are two reports written recently by our correspondent. — Ed.

An Effective Channel for Enforcing Democracy

BEGINNING last February, China launched an unprecedentedly large-scale fight against criminal activities in the economic sphere. Since then, there have been many newspaper stories about smuggling, speculation, embezzlement, bribery and encroachment upon public property.

Here are a few examples:

In collaboration with Xianggang (Hongkong) businessmen, two former leading cadres of the Shenzhen branch of the China Electronics Technology Import and Export Corporation illegally imported 44,700 radio tape recorders during the more than one-year period ending September 1981. They evaded taxes amounting to 2.10 million yuan. In the meantime, they devised a scheme to illegally import 7,000 TV sets, declaring that they were only importing parts. Then, following the issuance of strict State Council rules controlling the import of TV sets and radio tape recorders, on February 1 last year, they imported 530,000

more TV sets, 300,000 more radio tape recorders, 850,000 cassettes — for a total value of 50 million (US) dollars — by pushing the date of their contracts back to before February 1. The two also sold foreign exchange at a high price.

Two Beijing residents, one worker and one cadre, set up

the Beihuan Service Corporation, which had neither a license from the administrative and management department for industry and commerce, nor any capital or material goods. By trickery and bribery, they convinced some units to sign more than 30 fake contracts and agreements. This put 2.952 million yuan RMB in their pockets, but they only supplied goods amounting to 10 per cent of this figure. They used the remaining money for further cheating and speculation.

Abusing the power entrusted to him by the people, Sun Xiaquan, the former head of the Cultural Bureau of Hangzhou, acquired a large number of valuable ancient paintings and calligraphy scrolls through embezzlement and extortion or by purchasing them at unfairly low prices when the owners



Zhuang Xiying (right), a postwoman in Guangdong Province, wrote to the superior level and Party papers several times to expose her director who was giving aid to smugglers through the post office. She was supported by many others.

were in need of money. He also received bribes from criminals who were later punished for smuggling cultural relics out of China. He was expelled from the Party and was detained for questioning.

While these criminals were laughing up their sleeves, the people around them had already noticed their schemes. Letters accusing and exposing them poured into the Party office for inspecting discipline and the juridical departments.

The information contained in such letters is not always totally accurate, but often they provide important clues.

Moreover, these letters and interviews indicate the changes in the domestic political situation. Whenever problems become prominent in the society, letters or interviews about these problems increase in number, so they are regarded as an indicator of social trends as well as a barometer of the feelings of the populace about Party policies.

Solving Problems Left Over by History

The Third Plenum of the Party's 11th Central Committee held at the end of 1978 formulated the correct political and ideological line. Following the principle of "seeking truth from facts and correcting mistakes whenever they are discovered," the country has since then begun to look into and redress the wrong cases instituted during the "cultural revolution" and many a problem left over since the founding of the People's Republic. This has won acclaim from the masses and the number of letters and visits from the people has increased drastically.

Take Anhui Province for instance. The Party and government departments higher than

the county level received and handled one million letters and interviews in each of 1978 and 1979, six times the annual average number during the previous years. The situation was more or less the same elsewhere in the country. During August-September 1979, an average of 700 persons arrived in Beijing every day appealing to the government for help. That year, the letters and interviews bureaus under the general offices of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council received altogether 1.082 million letters, one-third of them asking for aid with problems of incorrect policies. The number of letters and people who complained in person, the force with which they pleaded their cases and the pressing needs of the writers and callers were all unprecedented. As the two offices were not fully prepared for this, they could not deal with the problems very rapidly. As a result, some of the complainants held protest demonstrations.

The Party and government adopted appropriate measures afterwards to strengthen the work in this field. The Party and government departments at the central level as well as those Party and government offices in the provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities all set up special groups to handle the complaints. They seriously sought to redress wrong cases and to study and solve the various practical problems detailed by the letters and callers. At the same time, inspecting groups were formed to go to the grass roots to help the localities solve difficult cases. Around 200,000 cadres plunged themselves into the work.

After two years of concerted efforts, most grievances were redressed. Although there are still some letters complaining of

unfair treatment, they only involve the practices that arose in the aftermath of the redressing process.

In the past few years, China has adopted an open policy towards foreign countries and the policy to reactivate the economy. This is entirely necessary and correct. However, under these new historical conditions, some of the cadres, including Party cadres at quite a high level, have been influenced by decadent capitalist ideas. They disregard the interests of the state and the people and engage in criminal activities in the economic sphere. There is no wonder that letters exposing these have been increasing in number.

Its Origin

By the time the People's Republic was founded in 1949, the Party Central Committee had a special secretarial group handling people's letters for Chairman Mao. The group members forwarded important correspondence directly to the Chairman and at regular intervals wrote him work reports about their handling of the other letters. On May 16, 1951, Chairman Mao wrote on one of these work reports:

"We must pay attention to letters from the people, handle them appropriately and satisfy the just demands of the masses, and we must regard this work as a means of strengthening the ties of the Communist Party and the People's Government with the people. Don't adopt a bureaucratic attitude by taking it lightly or ignoring it." He also suggested that a special office be set up wherever necessary to handle these letters if there were too many of them each day.

In the early 50s, the Party Central Committee and the State Council set up depart-

ments for visitors and letters respectively. Later on, the ministries and commissions under the State Council, the Party and government departments in the provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities all followed suit. The departments concerned at the central level handle representative cases of a serious nature, while most of the letters are dealt with by local units. Attention is paid not to transferring the letters to the same level as those they accuse nor to forwarding them to the accused so as not to give the accused any opportunity to retaliate and to protect the legal rights of the writers and those who filed the case.

The editorial departments of newspapers all have their own correspondence departments. Only a few of the letters are printed while the bulk of them are compiled to serve as information for leading organs or are forwarded to the departments concerned.

Its Important Role

Practice has revealed the many advantages of leading departments' conscientious handling of letters and interviews:

— Such activity helps build a direct channel between the masses and the leading organizations and helps the leaders understand the feeling and demands of various classes and strata. The provincial Party committee of Hubei and the Hubei provincial people's government receive about 10,000 letters a year. Apart from asking for redressing of wrong practices, most of the letters that arrived in the last few years demanded resolutions to problems that were not handled properly during the "cultural revolution." They included former



The head of Nanan County People's Government in Fujian Province, Huang Tongxing (far right), talking to citizens. On the 15th of every month, the county head and deputy county heads receive the public and help solve difficult problems.

city dwellers asking to be transferred back to cities as they moved away years ago because they had been wrongly labelled as feudal landlords or other reasons, home-owners demanding the return of their private houses, and people who had been injured at work applying for subsidies. The provincial Party committee convened six meetings to study the problems raised in the letters and formulated 11 documents. These new policies will guide the people in solving the problems reasonably.

— It helps the masses supervise state functionaries. Historical experiences show that it is vitally important for a ruling proletarian party to guard against corruption and degeneration. When those who do evil things are powerful, ordinary people often dare not fight them face to face. It becomes very important for ordinary people to be able to write letters or go personally to the superior level to say what is on their minds after they have learnt of some important clues.

— It helps pool the masses' efforts and wisdom for the modernization drive. The people are concerned about the success of various undertakings. They can raise criticisms and suggestions to government departments through letters or interviews. Some of the very important administrative or economic measures the Party and government adopt are based on suggestions raised by ordinary people.

— It helps propagate the Party's policies and educate the masses. Many of the problems raised in the letters or by visitors are reasonable and can be solved. This puts demands on the departments concerned. At the same time, those handling the work of answering letters and interviews must be patient in doing explaining and educating work or even criticizing a few who are unreasonable.

For years, the departments handling letters and interviews have done a lot of work and have exerted a good influence on the people. As Chairman Hu

Yaobang of the Party Central Committee has said: "This is a question involving defining what is right and what is wrong, transforming our established practice, strengthening unity and doing our work well. We should not treat it casually."

How a City Deals With Them

SHASHI, a city of 229,000 people on the banks of the middle reaches of the Changjiang (Yangtze) River, covers an area of 120 square kilometres. Its rapid development of light and textile industries has contributed to the doubling of its total industrial output value in the past three years. Today it produces the same value in three days that it produced in the entire year of 1949.

Its political life is also thriving, as is evident from the ways its leaders deal with letters and calls from the public.

Special Office

The city government and the Party committee share an office that handles all letters and in-person callers. Six staff members deal with the routine work of the department, while important correspondence is handled by the leaders. The office forwards correspondence to appropriate departments and arranges meetings among several departments when problems require consultations so as to facilitate the process of finding solutions.

In addition to the above-mentioned office itself, some cadres in each of the bureaus and departments under the city government are assigned to handle letters and interviews — a total staff of 38, full-time and part-time included.

In 1981 the city office concerned received 957 letters and

1,268 visits from citizens, according to department head, Wan Hao, who said the 1980 figures were approximately the same.

But the contents of the letters and interviews have changed substantially in recent years, he said.

Following the downfall of the gang of four, the office handled a large number of grievances stemming from false and wrong charges lodged under their rule. The number of letters describing this kind of problem has diminished, he said.

Recently, the office has also received fewer requests for help from job-seekers, as the rapid development of the city's industry has absorbed many of the unemployed.

At the same time, the number of letters and callers who criticize cadres' style of work, suggest ways to improve government functioning and request help with problems in daily life has increased dramatically, Wan Hao said.

Meeting With Visitors

Facing the courtyard of the city government offices are two plain-looking reception rooms. There, every Tuesday and Friday morning, the staff of the department interviews citizens who have suggestions, worries or grievances. The city Party secretary, the mayor and vice-mayors drop by at regular intervals to talk with the public.

Here is an example of a routine interview:

A man about 50 claims that in early post-liberation days he was wrongly designated a feudal landlord and that as a result, some houses he owned in the city were "confiscated" by the government. He demands that his property be returned.

The staff explains to him that whatever his class status was in the countryside, it was unrelated to the socialist transformation of private housing in the cities. By the time of the socialist transformation of capitalist industry and commerce, the government took over private rental property in the cities and redistributed it to homeless residents at low rent. The original owners were compensated for the loss of property.

This was not the same as the wrong practice of taking over individuals' property without financial remuneration, a frequent occurrence during the "cultural revolution," which requires correction.

The man responds that he now understands the policy and drops his complaint.

Most of the citizens who are received by city Party secretaries or mayors have more difficult problems. For instance, Vice-Mayor Zhang Guangde once received a group of anxious people who represented 10 families that owned and inhabited a dilapidated house on Jiefang Road. The building had fallen into such disrepair that it was dangerous to live in. Their problem: government policy stipulates that privately owned buildings should be repaired by the owners. But, six of the families were headed by widows who were unable to do the repair work themselves and could not afford to pay someone else.

After listening to the catalogue of unfortunate circumstances facing the home-owners, Vice-Mayor Zhang quickly called a meeting among appropriate leaders, including two of the directors in charge of housing construction and allocation.

The meeting recommended that the residents temporarily move in with relatives and friends while the housing department tore down the old, deteriorated structure and built a new one. Today the 10 families are settled into a brand-new home and only pay a small rent each month.

Li Zicheng, Shashi Deputy Party Secretary in charge of letters and interviews, said, "Letters and calls are a bond that connects the Party with the masses. Through them, we can understand the people's concerns, their demands and their responses to the Party's policies. This is conducive to improving our work."

A Problem-Solving Support Network

The office receives more than 1,000 letters and visitors a year. The department's handful of leaders and staff members are inadequate to the task of dealing with all of them. As a result, city authorities rely on help from a network of numerous other departments.

Population control is a good example. Shashi has conducted a successful family planning drive and today 83 per cent of the city's young couples have only one child. The city government attributes its accomplishments in this field, both to improved education and resources and to material incentives awarded to single child families. These include bonuses drawn



Shashi deputy Party secretary Li Zicheng (left) visiting a 106-year-old woman. He not only receives the people personally, but often visits factories, schools and families.

from the welfare funds of the parents' workplaces.

For factories and other large enterprises, the amount of money earmarked for this purpose is insignificant. But it became a large burden for middle and primary schools because these institutions do not create material wealth and their government-supplied welfare funds are limited.

For a period of time, letters poured into the office asking for a solution to this problem. Finally it arranged a meeting attended by leaders of the family planning office, the bureau of education and the bureau of finance. The three agencies agreed that the bureau of finance would supplement the welfare funds of needy work units with special allocations for single child family bonuses.

Some letters are simply forwarded to the appropriate departments. At one time, many people wrote to complain about the long queues for purchasing coal and the poor quality of the briquets. These letters were brought to the attention of the coal corporation and its superior

agency, the bureau of materials. The two organizations held three successive meetings of coal supply workers and staff as well as shift and group heads.

They acknowledged the validity of the complaints and took corrective measures. To improve the briquets, they became more exact about the mix ratio between coal and earth, as well as improving quality control processes. They also restored the practice of selling coal on weekends and at night, and increased the number of sales outlets. A month later letters were arriving to praise them.

The Congressional Route

Another route for the public's problems is through the people's congress. If a problem is raised frequently to the office of letters and interviews, a city congress deputy may pool the complaints and formulate a proposal for a solution for consideration by the congress. It must be seconded by three other deputies and submitted to the proposal examination committee. If the committee approves it, the pro-

SPECIAL FEATURE/PEOPLE'S LETTERS

posal becomes a legal document and appropriate departments must see to it and report the solution to the standing committee of the city people's congress.

Last year, the city people's congress received a total of 1,728 proposals, of which 393 were concerned with city construction, such as improving muddy roads, erecting street lamps, building public toilets and sewers and increasing the pressure of running water. Although each of these problems might eventually be addressed anyway, when they became proposals at the city congress, they were resolved much more quickly.

Shashi is a newly developed industrial city. Many facilities cannot keep pace with the development of production. For instance, after many new buildings were completed, they had no water because of inadequate water pressure. In response to this problem, the city construction bureau allocated funds to expand the waterwork, lay new pipes and explore additional water resources. Now, the water supply has been improved.

City residents suffered many troubles because of insufficient public toilets and other conveniences. The city construction bureau director looked into the matter himself. As a result, the funds for public facilities were increased from 50,000 yuan a year to 200,000 yuan and construction work has also been accelerated.

At this time, one-third of the city's muddy roads have been paved with asphalt, modern street lamps have been installed on many streets; and a sewer in the low and frequently waterlogged downtown area has been completely refurbished. In addition, a city park has been built

there and it has become a recreation area.

City construction bureau director Yang said that the city has limited funds for city construction and must concentrate them on urgently needed projects. The people's letters and the deputies' proposals have helped them to determine the priorities.

Exposing Bad Practices

A letter from two older factory workers typifies another common area of complaints handled by the department—oppressive social customs. Addressed to the discipline inspection commission under the city Party committee, the letter criticized a common habit of inviting people to dinners in exchange for expensive gifts for special occasions, a practice particularly abused at the Shashi Woollen Mills.

"A family of four or five people can just make ends meet with an income of 100 yuan or so. But we suffer whenever anyone in the mill is getting married or has a relative who died. This practice cannot be called presenting gifts at all. It is sheer robbery," the letter said.

The writers gave the example that when two deputy directors of the factory were preparing for their children's marriages, they asked those working under them to collect gifts from workers. "Some Party members and cadres are unscrupulous, and the middle-ranking cadres just flatter them. We workers are very troubled. Isn't it about time the leading bodies at higher levels do something about it?"

The discipline inspection commission investigated the letter's charges and found not only were

they true, but the evil practices were spreading. Some workers had spent half their monthly wages to contribute to wedding gifts. Although they knew they would have a hard time for the rest of the month, many workers felt compelled to spend the money, for fear of hurting the feelings of the wedding couples or their families.

The couples to be married, for their part, felt forced to borrow money to show the "proper" generosity by giving lavish wedding parties. The ostentation and extravagance of one day resulted in problems for everyone for a long time afterwards.

The commission held that the Party must be the first to relinquish bad social habits. It issued a circular forbidding Party members, especially cadres, to extort gifts from the people no matter how the extortion was disguised. Anyone who violates this is required to make a self-criticism in addition to returning the gifts. Those whose cases are serious and remain unrepentant after education will be punished by Party discipline.

On the eve of New Year's Day 1982, the city federation of trade unions, the Communist Youth League Committee and the Women's Federation held a joint meeting to promote thrifty weddings. Changes in social habits do take place after strenuous efforts. Many leading comrades led the way with modest wedding parties for their children. Someone said that the discipline inspection commission did a good deed for the people. But comrades in the commission said modestly that they simply complied with requests from the public, without whose letters the problem would have remained unsolved. □

DANCE DRAMA

"The Pearl Lake"

Beijing audiences have been enraptured by the mythology of China's first full-length Manchu dance drama *The Pearl Lake*.

At the foot of the Changbai Mountains in northeast China lies a blue lake along whose shore generation after generation of Manchu people have lived. One day, a young fisherman Shu Donga nets a clam containing a glistening pearl in the lake. However, when the demon Ma Huzi tries to grab it he throws it back into the lake. The saved clam is a transformation of Princess Tana of the Pearl Kingdom and she falls in love with her benefactor.

With the consent of her father — the King, they are married in accord with the traditions of the villagers. Among the wedding guests is the demon in disguise. He seizes the pearl from Tana's head and immediately the princess becomes blind.

The King presents Shu Donga with a magical sword. Shu fights his way into the cave of

the demon. Fearful of the sword, the demon agrees to return the pearl. But this is only a ploy until he can use his supernatural powers to capture Shu Donga.

The demon dresses himself in Shu's clothes. He hopes to deceive Princess Tana, but his identity is revealed by the fairy Magpie. However, the evil Ma Huzi is not to be denied. He returns the pearl to the princess and tries to force her to marry him, declaring Shu Donga is dead. In despair, Princess Tana smashes the pearl.

Shu Donga is saved by the fairies of the Pearl Kingdom. He conquers all the lesser demons, and then rushes to the lakeside and kills Ma Huzi.

The princess is critically ill. The distressed Shu Donga holds his wife in his arms and walks towards the middle of the lake. . . . Two rocks rise from the lake revealing pearls everywhere. Hence, the name Pearl Lake.

The Pearl Lake is adapted from the ancient fairy tale *The Pearl Gate*. This story, like most Chinese mythology, praises

kindness, integrity, industriousness and bravery. Sympathy and support is shown to Shu Donga and Tana, who are bullied, while the evil forces of Ma Huzi are mercilessly exposed and denounced.

This version was created and performed by the Liaoning Song and Dance Ensemble. To prepare this dance drama, Zhao Rongwen (Han), Yu Zhixian (Manchu) and Li Shizhong (Han-Manchu), the three choreographers, did thorough book and field research. They visited hundreds of people and acquainted themselves with the habits and customs of the Manchu nationality. They also collected music and dances of the Manchus. These were used to create prototypes and to delineate the theme with finesse and profundity. The success of the dance also derives from the graceful movements and expression of the performers.

There are 2.6 million Manchus in China scattered in the three northeast provinces — Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang. Half of them live in Liaoning and some live in Beijing also. The Manchu nationality has a tradition of being industrious and brave, and learning quickly. In Manchu culture, folklore and songs and dances are prominent.

The performance of *The Pearl Lake* in Beijing is of a Manchu genre incorporating both romanticism and realism. It has appeal for all Chinese.



At the Pearl Palace, Tana agrees to marry Shu Donga.

AGROSCIENCE

Rubber Stretches

Northward

China has expanded its rubber growing area to 24 degrees

north latitude, a significant deviation in rubber production.

China is a major rubber producing country with 330,000 hectares under cultivation. It produces 100,000 tons of dried rubber a year. Last year, the production was 110,000 tons of dried rubber. Natural rubber accounts for about 70 per cent of China's rubber need.

The rubber tree is a plant which needs fertile soil, hot temperature, plentiful moisture and no wind. It usually is grown only south of 17 degrees north latitude. However, China is almost totally north of the 18th parallel and is of high elevation with no favourable weather conditions for growing rubber trees.

China's rubber growing areas along the South China Sea often suffer typhoons, sometimes two or three times a year. A violent wind may destroy 3-4 million rubber trees. To counter this, rubber growers in Guangdong, Yunnan, Guangxi and Fujian have effectively protected their rubber trees from the wind by planting windbreak tree-belts across rubber tree farms, thus significantly reducing losses.

Rubber growers have also built terraced fields, cultivated better species and planted many legumes to prevent soil erosion. By introducing the new technique of growing rubber saplings in nurseries, they have shortened the growing period of rubber trees prior to tapping from 7-8 to 4-5 years.

New Species of Rubber Trees

Yunyan No. 1, a cold-resistant species of rubber trees, has been developed by researchers in Yunnan Province.

The *Yunyan No. 1* has been planted in large areas in the southern areas of Yunnan Province, some of which were previously deemed too cold for rubber trees. Tapping of these trees has already begun. This breakthrough has important implications for the utilization of mountainous areas and the development of the rubber industry.

In 1904 rubber tree cultivation began in China but acreage was limited because the species were imported from Brazil and were tropical. Temperate weather prevented expansion into northern locations. The breeding group of the Yunnan Provincial Tropical Crops Research Institute in co-operation with the Yunnan's Jinghong Farm started in 1966 to experiment with new cold-resistant varieties. Carrying their provisions and equipment, they regularly climbed mountains to inspect the seedlings and record the growth. They concluded that the species *Yunyan No. 1* adapted well to harsher weather conditions.

The new species withstood two extensive cold waves and rapid drops in temperature. In the Xishuangbanna range at 1,300 metres above sea level four days of low temperatures with ice killed only 14.3 per cent of the trees.

Last year, this achievement was officially recognized by the Ministry of Land Reclamation and the Yunnan provincial government.

EDUCATION

Work-Study Programmes

Work-study programmes have been adopted in many Chinese schools as a means of combining education with productive la-

bour and rearing a new socialist generation.

Two-thirds of Hunan's 60,000 primary and middle schools include work in school-run factories or farms as part of the regular curriculum. In Tianjin 40 per cent do. Some schools have developed their own labour teaching programmes, established productive labour courses and instituted corresponding examinations.

The schools of Benxi County in Liaoning Province are establishing school projects to afforest barren hills and wasteland. Last year, the areas planted with trees managed by schools expanded from 450 hectares to 2,700 hectares.

Some localities have combined the work at the school-run factories or farms with vocational education. For example, the Shenyang No. 36 Middle School set up eight vocational and technical classes for its senior middle school students related to its chemical reagents factory. Four hundred students are enrolled in this programme which requires them to take the regular courses as well as vocational ones. Upon graduation three years later the students are qualified to be skilled reagent-making workers.

The Benxi Middle School in Shanghai has made use of the school-run tailoring workshop to set up a tailoring vocational class. Of the first group of graduates, over 40 were employed by the city's commercial bureau. The class has been expanded into a vocational senior middle school.

The 1981 net income of the country's primary and middle schools from the work-study programme was 576 million yuan. This was equal to 7.68 per cent of the annual education allotment of the state.

Tan Quanshu's Woodcuts

Tan Quanshu, born in Baotou in Inner Mongolia in 1936, is a graphic artist who teaches in the Central Institute of Fine Arts in Beijing.

Known for his portrayals of the life of herdsmen in Inner Mongolia, his works are characterized by fine composition, skilful carving and sharp black-white contrast.



Wrestlers.



In the evening.

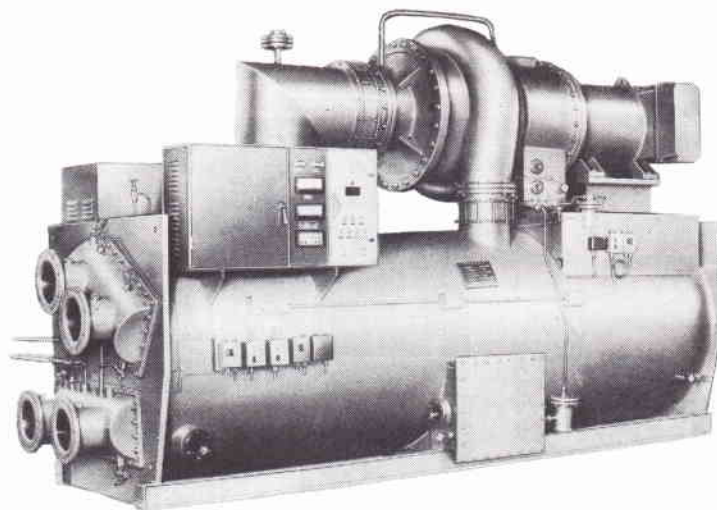


A Mongolian woman.

Wind and clouds of the grasslands.

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