

Vol. 26, No. 29

July 18, 1983

BEIJING REVIEW

北京周報

A CHINESE WEEKLY OF
NEWS AND VIEWS

Yunnan: A
Multinational
Province



Wrong Tendency
In Art Opposed



Women Win
Volleyball
Tournament



LETTERS

Articles on Chinese-Type Modernization

Your series of articles on Chinese-type modernization deeply analysed the nature and characteristics of socialist China's modernization, its emphases in construction and plans for the future. The articles also gave reasons why the gross annual value of industrial and agricultural output can be quadrupled towards the end of the century. They explained the necessity of reforms, offered straight-forward answers to questions raised by foreigners and talked about the past neglect and errors in your work. Supported by convincing facts and figures and written in an easily understandable style, they built up my confidence in China's modernization.

These articles and others, like Hu Yaobang's report to the 12th National Party Congress (issue No. 37, 1982) and report on the work of the government, have deepened my understanding to Chinese-type modernization and provided me a correct approach towards false reports about China.

Nirashi Sakaguchi
Tokyo, Japan

The series on Chinese-type modernization is very interesting and informative. I have written some articles and given some lec-

tures on China, so the series is useful to me. When people ask me "What does the modernization process mean in China?" it's much easier to answer these questions.

Pertti Laine
Helsinki, Finland

The series "Chinese-Type Modernization" has been excellent. I think it safe to say that your readers and all friends of the Chinese people are vitally interested in the modernization of Chinese industry, agriculture, science and technology. Your series devoted to this topic has been the most complete and cogent explanation.

I find the articles appearing in your magazine pertaining to the economic and social life of the Chinese people to be of great interest. Such information is invaluable in contrasting the different goals of socialist and capitalist societies. Examples of such articles would include the interesting report appearing in the January 17, 1983 issue (No. 3) concerning a reformatory in the Qinhuangdao region and the several articles devoted to the introduction of the contract system and other economic reforms. While I cannot say that I dislike any particular section of your magazine, there appears occasionally an overabundance of statistics. Statistical information should augment articles and not become their focus.

I had occasion to read your magazine during the latter part of the period of the "cultural revolution" and can state unequivocally that it has improved immensely. Your magazine is a worthy rep-

resentative of the hopes and aspirations of the Chinese people as well as a vehicle of friendship for those abroad who are interested in the path the Chinese people have embarked upon.

Philip T. Johnson
Arlington, VA, USA

Your articles on Chinese-type modernization are very interesting. After reading them, I understood why the leaders and the masses should unite in your modernization drive. However, in my humble opinion, if you are not patient in your work, many defects and social problems will arise.

I hope you will go on publishing articles on other related questions.

Again, there is no economic development to speak of without the development of econometrics, no matter what kind of economy you are trying to develop — either planned economy or free economy. Therefore, I hope you will develop your statistical work.

Shinpei Uehara
Gunma, Japan

I think your Chinese-type modernization series marks a transitional stage for your weekly from that of journalistic reporting to that of educational offerings. These articles are themselves a textbook on the complicated field of China's modernization.

Yury Abdon Cahuata Pilaes
CUSCO, Peru

Announcement

Beginning in our next issue, we will carry some articles from the newly published "Selected Works of Deng Xiaoping."

In our next issue, we will publish excerpts from Deng Xiaoping's talks on the drafting and revision of the Resolution on Certain Questions in the History of Our Party Since the Founding of the People's Republic of China between March 1980 and the Sixth Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee of June 1981. In these talks he dealt mainly with the merits and demerits of Mao Zedong and expressed his views on some other major questions.

Child Welfare

It is now about one year since I wrote to commend the articles carried in your magazine. I must now comment on *Beijing Review* issue No. 22. This issue was of particular interest to me. Firstly in that it carried an excellent article on child welfare ("All are concerned for children") which was the subject of my last letter to you. Secondly, the extensive coverage of various aspects of Confucius. Admittedly this is not a subject about which I know a great deal, and so it was very good to be able to learn much from just one issue of *Beijing Review*.

Jonathan Gordon-Till
West Yorkshire, UK

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CONTENTS

LETTERS

NOTES FROM THE EDITORS 4

An unhealthy tendency in art
and literature

EVENTS & TRENDS 5-9

Huang Zhicheng on the main-
land

A China-run firm in Xiang-
gang

New styles become popular
Major scientific research pro-
jects

Central African President in
China

Sino-Korean amity further
enhanced

Note on Taiwan's issuance of
visas

INTERNATIONAL 10-14

Afghanistan: First six months
of fighting in '83

ASEAN: Conference with dia-
logue countries

Italy: Political situation under-
goes change

West Germany: Chancellor
Kohl's visit to Moscow

Bulgaria: Improving foreign
trade structure

SHANGHAI FAMILIES CITED 15-18

FEATURE

China's Administrative Re-
gions: Yunnan: A multina-
tional frontier province
Nationalities policy: fruitful
results 19

Developing economy 23

Farewell, god of plague 26

CULTURE & SCIENCE 28-30

ART PAGE 31

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Wrong Tendency in Art and Literature Opposed

Cultural departments are taking measures to check the unhealthy tendency among some artists and writers of appealing to vulgar and socially harmful tastes (p. 4).

China Defeat US and Japan in Volleyball

An analytical report on the victory of China's women's volleyball team at the Super-Three Women's Volleyball Tournament held in Xianggang (Hongkong) from July 6 to 8 (p. 28).

Yunnan Province in Progress

Yunnan Province, a centre for national minorities and economic resources, is the subject of this week's special feature by our correspondent. It shows the success of government policies on the unity of nationalities and their common prosperity (p. 19).

"Five Goods" Families

Four Shanghai families who have won "five goods" titles indicates new ethics for family relationships in present-day China (p. 15).



Afghanistan's Fighting

Afghan guerrillas smashed the Soviet spring offensive, causing heavy losses to the Soviet Union (p. 10).

Youth of Lisu nationality in their
holiday best for traditional festival.

Photo by Zhu Yuhu

An unhealthy tendency in art and literature

Writers, artists and the public are critical of an emerging tendency to commercialize literature and art. The art and literature departments are taking measures to check this tendency.

"Commercialization" specifically refers to the works or performances that appeal to vulgar or socially harmful tastes for the sake of monetary or other material profits in disregard of social effects. The influence of such works is palpably negative, particularly upon the youth. Unchecked, this tendency could undermine socialist spiritual civilization campaign and the modernization drive.

In socialist society, commodities cannot yet be abolished. In fact commodity production and exchange will continue to develop over a fairly long historical period. Their fundamental aim is to meet the needs of people's material and cultural lives. This is essentially different from commodity production under capitalist private ownership, which seeks profits only.

Socialist cultural and literary products are circulated in the form of commodities, but are different from ordinary commodities. Their purpose is to encourage and reinforce socialist morality, to offer incentives for people to forge ahead and to bring up people with communist ideas. The decadent concept of "everything for money"

should not be allowed to infiltrate our literature and art.

Fundamentally, commercialized literature and art arise because some writers and artists seek personal gains, and have deviated from the orientation that their works should serve the people and socialism. They forget that in New China their duty is to accelerate the construction of socialist spiritual civilization by educating the people in the spirit of patriotism, collectivism, socialism and communism. They lose sight of their responsibility to steer people away from vulgar and backward sentiments.

Some people worry that criticism of commercialization may affect the implementation of "two hundreds" policy (letting a hundred flowers blossom and a hundred schools of thought contend). I think such worries are superfluous. As I have written in other articles in this column, this policy encourages free discussion of diverse views. When works that express wrong tendencies or errors emerge, they can be corrected through criticism and self-criticism, and be guided along a correct path. This policy will encourage the flourishing of literature and art.

It is a common practice for the news media to express diverse views on fiction and films. *Beijing Review* readers may remember that we covered both the criticisms of Bai Hua's

screenplay *Unrequited Love* and his later creative works. These criticisms were not censorship of the writer himself. In fact the criticisms have helped him to write more and better works since then. His new historical play, *The Story of King Goujian* recently staged in Beijing, has been widely acclaimed. This is only one example.

Other people worry that when literary and art works emphasize the principles of patriotism, collectivism, socialism and communism, they will be reduced to formulas and generalities. I think there are no inevitable links between the former and the latter. A work that is characterized by formulas and generalities signifies its departure from life and violation of the laws of art.

While arming themselves with patriotism, collectivism, socialism and communism, artists and writers should actively participate in the real life of the masses. Their works should reflect, in various forms and styles, the great struggles of the millions who are involved in modernization and the new people and events reflecting communist ideas. Only when artists and writers are familiar with life and have sound practical experiences can they create good works.

—Literary Editor
Xin Xiangrong



Huang Zhicheng on the mainland

"I believe I've made the correct choice," said Huang Zhicheng, the air force pilot who flew to the mainland from Taiwan in August 1981.

His remarks were made to some Beijing-based foreign correspondents in his capacity as a member of the Sixth National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference during its first session.

"During the current session," he said, "I've said everything I wish to say."

"As a military man," he added, "I've put forward a proposal for strengthening the army's legal system and improving its rules and regulations."

Huang then talked about his life and work since he left Taiwan as well as his impression of the mainland.

"The Chinese nation is marked by its tremendous coherence

and people on both sides of the Taiwan Straits have the same sense of national dignity and the same desire for national reunification. Both have merits worth learning from each other," he said.

"For instance," he continued, "Taiwan has gained some experience in developing education and in economic management. However, it must rely on others economically and militarily and is isolated diplomatically. As a Chinese, one can hardly hold up his head there."

"On the mainland," he said, "we enjoy a healthy social environment and a stable political situation. We also have an independent economy and an independent foreign policy. Life here is rich and colourful and the people are united."

Since his return to the mainland, he said, "I've held up my head and felt very proud that I'm now living truly as a Chinese."

Huang is now deputy commandant of an air academy in charge of regular training and

theoretical study. "I myself have much to learn," he said. "At present, I'm learning the art of command. And I wish to study some philosophy and to brush up my English. I hope I can do something to help improve the quality of training in our academy."

He said he missed relatives and friends in Taiwan.

"I hope they will have an opportunity to meet people from the mainland and Chinese living abroad who are familiar with the situation here," he said. "Through such contacts they may come to know that many things are entirely different from what they have been told in Taiwan."

"For instance," he said, "the 'cultural revolution' is what people heard about most in Taiwan, which gave them the impression China is in total chaos. Any talk of the achievements of the mainland is taboo there."

"There was indeed chaos during the 'cultural revolution,'" he said, "but that's a thing of the past. Now everything here is thriving."

On freedom, he said, "when I was in Taiwan, I was told that there was no freedom here and people were restricted in every way. So I spoke with caution when I first came back.

"But soon I found we do have freedom of speech. I can say whatever I like. In my academy, I always point out what I feel to be wrong."

Huang Zhicheng said that through the press he wishes to tell his relatives and friends in Taiwan that he has been leading a happy life. He got married last year. His wife used to work



Huang Zhicheng (fourth from right) with other former Kuomintang air force pilots Xu Tingze (third from left), Huang Tianming (first from left), Li Dawei (fourth from left) and others.

with the CAAC and is now studying English in the Beijing No. 2 Foreign Languages Institute. His monthly salary is 166 yuan which is more than enough to cover his family's expense as the cost of living is low here, he said.

A China-run firm in Xianggang

The newly established Everbright Industrial Corporation will soon begin operations in Xianggang (Hongkong), said the corporation's chairman Wang Guangying at a press briefing attended by Chinese and foreign correspondents in late June. "The corporation is a non-governmental firm engaged in a wide range of businesses.

Wang Guangying was recently elected a Vice-Chairman at the First Session of the Sixth National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

The Everbright Industrial Corporation was inaugurated last April in Beijing. Wang Guangying and nine others immediately began preparing the corporation's Xianggang operations. They bought an office building and dormitory and explored 30 feasible projects in consultation with foreign businesses.

Known as "a man of action," Wang Guangying, 64, graduated from the chemistry department of Furen (Foo Jen) University in 1942 and became head of a factory the following year. After the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, he was manager of the Tianjin Knitwear Company. In 1980, he was elected Deputy Mayor of Tianjin and was instrumental in the economic prosperity of that city.

He said that the aim of the

corporation is to expand economic and technical exchanges with foreign countries.

Its present tasks include seeking foreign capital and introducing advanced technology and equipment to Chinese enterprises. It also plans to make investments in foreign countries at a later stage.

It is authorized to co-operate with foreign businesses in joint ventures both in China and abroad. It is expected to contribute to the prosperity of Xianggang.

The corporation has state support and abundant funds and its directors are all experienced economists. "Premier Zhao Ziyang agreed to my plan to set up the corporation in Xianggang," Wang Guangying said. "I have powerful backing."

The corporation plans to employ some 40 Xianggang residents, who will become two-thirds of the corporation's staff there. When its affiliated companies and offices are set up in other parts of the world, it will also employ local personnel.

New styles become popular

With rising living standards, the Chinese people are beginning to show interest in stylish clothes made of better fabrics.

This desire was evident at the May sales exhibition of garments, hats and shoes from three municipalities (Beijing, Tianjin and Shanghai) and two provinces (Jiangsu and Liaoning).

The exhibition offered China's first fashion show, staged by 14 performers from Shanghai with a total of 185 garments in traditional Chinese and Western styles.

The exhibition received an average of 20,000 customers a day and sold 60,000 garments, for 400,000 yuan daily.

During her visit to the exhibition, Hao Jianxiu, a former textile worker and now Alternate Member of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee, told the sponsors: "The minds of the staff of our garment trade should be more emancipated. We should encourage the men to wear Western style suits and sports jackets and women, *qipao* (a sheath with a 'Mandarin' collar and a slit skirt), Western style suits and skirts. Our clothing styles should be tasteful, with a national flavour and suited our people's customs, and the prices should be low."

Young people were the main customers at the exhibition and 55 per cent of the total retail sales were of clothing for young people. Children's garments came second, accounting for 34.5 per cent. The exhibition displayed more than 200 varieties of children's garments and sold a total of 875,000 pieces. The designers tried to lower the cost of production so that the average cost per garment was 2.8 yuan.

However, the exhibition showed little progress in providing new styles for older and middle-aged people.

A 29-day sales exhibition of spring and summer clothes was held in Beijing earlier. It served 500,000 customers and sold 1.2 million pieces of garments with a total value of 10 million yuan, an unprecedented event.

Another garment exhibition held in spring this year was the school uniform design exhibition in Beijing. On Children's Day (June 1), one million children in 10 cities put on their new sky blue and white young pioneer summer uniforms.



The Beijing sales exhibition of spring and summer clothes.

and finishing; intensive chemical processing and comprehensive utilization of petroleum; development of urgently needed new materials; manufacturing of a 2,050-millimetre continuous hot rolling mill and 600,000-kilowatt thermal power generating units; equipment for extra-high voltage A.C. transmission and transformation; and offshore oil drilling.

Wu said that at present, China uses about 1 per cent of its total industrial and agricultural output value for scientific research. To accomplish these projects, China will concentrate the necessary financial and material resources and will organize scientists to conduct domestic research, investigate international findings and use foreign capital and technology. Scientific and technical co-operation with any country will be based on the principle of equality and mutual benefit.

By 1985, the 38 projects include 114 topics, 75 of which will be completed, Wu Xing said in conclusion.

Central African President in China

General Andre Kolingba, President of the Military Committee for National Redressment of Central Africa and head of state, arrived in Beijing on July 4 for an official and friendly visit to China at the invitation of the Chinese Government. He was accorded a warm welcome.

President Li Xiannian gave a banquet in honour of President Kolingba and met with him. It

Stylish uniforms will soon be available for 200 million college and middle and primary school students.

Clothing now accounts for one-fourth of the Chinese people's total expenditures. After a 20-30 per cent price cut on synthetic fabrics in January this year, people became more interested in high and medium-cost clothing made of these fabrics.

Major scientific research projects

Feasibility studies for 38 major scientific research projects designated for the Sixth Five-Year Plan (1981-85) were finished at the end of 1982, according to Wu Xing, a spokesman for the State Science and Technology Commission.

At a press briefing at the end of June, he said that the technology used in these projects will help solve some of the technical problems in China's present economic construction and

will be conducive to promoting production and improving economic results in various industrial departments.

Of the 38 projects, Wu said, seven are related to agricultural production; four to food, textiles and light industrial products; eight to energy development and conservation; eight to geology and raw materials; four to machine-building and electronics equipment two to transportation; one to development of new technology; and four to social development.

Among these are a number of top priority projects which will have a significant bearing on China's overall economic development, including selection and breeding of new strains and species of rice, wheat, soybeans, maize, cotton, sugar-bearing crops, rapeseed, livestock and poultry; industrial production processes and technology and equipment for large-scale integrated circuits, and development of computer technology; technology for energy development and conservation; processes for spinning chemical fibres and equipment for textile dyeing



President Li Xiannian welcomes President Kolingba.

tween the Governments of China and Central Africa was signed on July 6.

Sino-Korean amity further enhanced

Hu Yaobang, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, on July 7 said that Comrade Kim Jong Il, one of the principal leaders of the Korean Workers' Party, had made an invited but unannounced visit to China last month.

Hu said that the principal leaders of the Chinese Communist Party had had very cordial and friendly conversations with Comrade Kim Jong Il, whose visit has further enhanced the amity between the two Parties, two countries and two peoples of China and Korea.

Hu Yaobang said this when he met with a delegation from the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea led by its chairman, Yang Hong Sop. The delegation arrived in Beijing on July 5 for a nine-day friendly visit at the invitation of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

Yang Hyong Sop told Hu Yaobang that Comrade Kim Jong Il expressed great satisfaction with his visit to China and had briefed a plenary session of the Korean Workers' Party Central Committee on it.

Referring to the present world situation, Hu Yaobang said that the Chinese Communist Party and Government have always supported the Korean people's strong aspiration for the inde-

was the first time Li Xiannian received a foreign head of state since he became President of the People's Republic of China.

At the banquet, President Li praised the Central African Government's efforts for national unity, social stability and a prosperous economy. He also praised its peaceful, neutral and non-aligned policy in international affairs, and its stand on maintaining African unity. He expressed China's willingness to develop its friendship and co-operation with Central Africa.

President Kolingba said that the People's Republic of China with an ancient civilization and culture and the young Central African Republic share the common ideals of peace, justice and solidarity.

He assured his hosts that his country is willing to expand and develop its relations with China.

Premier Zhao Ziyang held talks with President Kolingba and the two exchanged views on the world and African situation

and the development of friendly relations between their countries.

Premier Zhao stressed that strengthening the unity of third world countries is the focus of China's foreign policy. He said that China regards the safeguarding of the rights and interests of third world people as its important internationalist duty.

Premier Zhao also said that China is concerned about African unity and regards the Organization of African Unity (OAU) as a symbol of African unity. "We are pleased to see the successful convocation of the 19th assembly of heads of state and government of OAU," he said.

On July 5, the Red Cross Society of China donated US\$50,000 to the Central African Republic Government for the people of drought-affected areas.

An agreement on economic and technical co-operation be-



Hu Yaobang meets with Yang Hyong Sop and other Korean comrades.

pendent and peaceful reunification of their country.

Reunification of the whole of Korea, he said, would be a great event in promoting the solidarity of the Korean nation and the peace and stability of Asia and the rest of the world.

But, he said, this reunification can be realized only on the premise that all foreign troops withdraw from south Korea.

President Li Xiannian and NPC Standing Committee Chairman Peng Zhen separately met and had a very cordial and friendly conversation with Chairman Yang Hyong Sop and his delegation.

Note on Taiwan's issuance of visas

Qi Huaiyuan, Director of the Information Department of the Foreign Ministry, said on July

5 that the ministry recently made representations to the US and other embassies in Beijing on the question of visas issued by offices of the Taiwan authorities in those countries.

On June 29, Qi said, the Chinese Foreign Ministry notified all foreign diplomatic missions in Beijing on the same issue.

At his weekly news briefing on July 5, Qi Huaiyuan read out excerpts from the note as follows: "In recent years, the Taiwan authorities have set up, in some countries which have diplomatic ties with China, offices of various descriptions for directly handling and issuing visas for travel to the 'Republic of China.' They have also induced these countries to set up reciprocal offices in Taiwan to be in direct charge of handling and issuing visas. By so doing, the Taiwan authorities are attempting to establish 'official relations' or de facto official relations with these countries so as to undermine the normal

relations between China and these countries.

"As is known to all, the issuance of visas is a governmental function of a state, an official act which is performed by consular offices or diplomatic missions abroad. Clear provisions concerning this are found in Articles 2, 3 and 5 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. The Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government of China, and Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory.

"The Chinese Government is always firmly opposed to any activities that might lead to the creation of 'two Chinas' or 'one China, one Taiwan' or that treat Taiwan as a separate political entity. In view of this, the Chinese Government is firmly opposed not only to any country permitting Taiwan to establish, or exchanging with it, representative offices of an official nature for official contacts, but also to any country permitting any organs of the Taiwan authorities to perform 'consular functions' or establishing any organ in Taiwan to perform such functions."



*Afghanistan***First six months of fighting in '83**

THE continuing frequent and fierce fighting between the Afghan guerrillas and the Soviet troops during the first half of this year have reached a stalemate.

The Fourth "Spring Offensive."

As winter ended, the Soviets concentrated a superior force to launch a large-scale "mopping-up" campaign against the guerrillas in east Paktia, south Kandahar and west Herat Provinces, trying to destroy guerrilla strength. The Soviet authorities sent an extra 12,000 troops to Afghanistan, reinforcing its 100,000 armed forces already stationed there. Soviet warplanes raided surrounding areas of important strategic points and along main communication lines, wounding and killing large numbers of Afghan civilians in an attempt to discourage local support for the guerrillas.

In late April, large numbers of Soviet planes began terror-bombing the important city of Herat, the most savage bombing since Soviet bombardment of the Panjshir Valley last year, destroying part of the city and about 35 villages around the city, and killing or wounding 3,000 innocent civilians.

The fourth "Spring Offensive" since Soviet troops invaded Afghanistan in 1979, however, failed to achieve its goal of wiping out the guerrillas, even though the Soviet Union suffered heavy losses. Reported Soviet casualties are mounting with the escalating in the fighting. The total number of Soviet wounded and the dead has increased to 15,000. The Soviets also are losing an increasing number of airplanes, tanks, vehicles and other weapons.

Guerrillas Strengthening Com-

bat Forces. Although the Afghan guerrillas suffered some losses during the latest campaign, they have gained experience and raised both their fighting capability and morale. The number of Afghan resistance forces has now reached 100,000 and they still control over 80 per cent of the villages and most of the country's mountainous areas.

During the first half of this year, Afghan guerrillas have shown their military strength by ambushing and frequently attacking enemy military facilities, army supplies and government organizations. In Nangarhar Province, the guerrillas mounted four attacks on the airport in Jalalabad, (about 120 km from Kabul), killing and wounding some 100 enemy troops and destroying large numbers of helicopters, armoured cars and oil tankers at the airport.

Furthermore, the unity of the Afghan resistance groups has been greatly strengthened. The Islamic Alliance of Afghan Mujahideen has been fully unified following the announcement on May 25 of the establishment of a central leadership and dissolution of the seven member parties. The formation of the alliance was announced in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, last year. It had previously been a loose seven-party alliance with each party retaining its own organs.

Kabul Regime in a Predicament. In contrast, the struggle among the factions of the Kabul regime has sharpened, and the contradictions between the Soviet troops and the Kabul puppet regime have come to the surface. The defence minister of the Kabul regime was reportedly shot and wounded by a



Afghan guerrillas in training.

member of the "People's Party" last May because of the sharp factional strife. Not long ago several Soviet army officers were killed or wounded during an armed clash between Soviet and Karmal officers in Kandahar. As a result some of the Karmal officers were arrested by the Soviet troops. Karmal went to Kandahar to seek a peaceful settlement of the clash, but the conflict has not yet been resolved.

Despite the predicament resulting from its failures, Moscow has not altered its strategic goal of controlling Afghanistan and opening a southern passage to the Indian Ocean.

In a "Declaration on the Geneva Talks" distributed on June

22, the Afghan resistance organization said: "We as a nation have no other alternative but to continue our armed struggle."

"We are fully prepared to endure any kind of sacrifices to ensure our goals and will reject any compromises demanded of us. We declare once again that we prefer an honourable death to a miserable life," it said.

All this indicates that the Soviet Union cannot win its war in Afghanistan. Neither the military attacks nor the Soviet peace offensive can change the predicament the Soviet authorities have got themselves into.

— *Shi Zhongxin,*
Zhang Zhinian

criticized the soft stand on the Kampuchean issue taken by some countries. Some believe that Shultz's stand is related to President Reagan's plan to visit Japan, south Korea and Indonesia in November.

Furthermore, some of the propositions presented by Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden were criticized by the foreign ministers of the Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia and the United States. This was seldom done in the past. Hayden said on June 27 that, as regards the Kampuchean problem, "time may be working in favour of the Vietnamese." The foreign ministers of Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia did not share Hayden's view. Philippine Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo said that the Australian wish to woo Viet Nam away from the Soviet Union was doomed to failure, because Viet Nam relied too much on Moscow. Shultz said, "Time is on our side. We need not worry about it."

Although all the foreign ministers present at the dialogue meeting supported Hayden's visit to Hanoi to seek a new channel to solve the Kampuchean question, they did not believe that Hayden's visit would be successful.

After his visit to Viet Nam and Laos, Hayden went to Thailand and held talks with the Thai foreign minister on July 4. Their talks indicated that Viet Nam did not really wish to settle the Kampuchean question. Hayden noted that his trip only got a guarantee from Hanoi that it was willing to open the door to the negotiations.

Both the ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting and the dialogue conference defended the UN resolutions and the declara-

ASEAN

Conference with dialogue countries

FOLLOWING the 16th ASEAN ministerial meeting in Bangkok, the ASEAN countries and Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany, which also represented the European Economic Community, held a foreign ministers' dialogue meeting in Bangkok on June 27-28.

The fact that the ASEAN countries could attract so many developed countries to join the economic dialogue with them and could convince them to support their stand on the Kampuchean question shows that the ASEAN countries are playing a greater role in the international arena.

Since 1979 the ASEAN countries have held dialogue conferences after their annual foreign ministerial meetings. In

the first year only Japan attended the conference. Since then the number of countries attending has steadily increased. In 1982 an EEC representative was present at the dialogue meeting in addition to the former five dialogue countries.

Active Role on Kampuchean Question

The dialogue meeting this year strongly addressed the Kampuchean question. The United States took a strong position towards Viet Nam and the Soviet Union on this issue. US Secretary of State George Shultz attended the dialogue meeting and paid an official visit to Thailand. Shultz's remarks showed that the United States was very concerned about the Soviet military bases in Viet Nam and Kampuchea and Soviet expansion into the Asian and Pacific region. He

tion adopted by the International Conference on the Kampuchean Question, strengthened ASEAN unity and helped coordinate the present steps of the dialogue countries regarding the Kampuchean issue. Thus these meetings added further weight to the international condemnation of the Vietnamese and Soviet intransigence and expansionism.

The continuing struggle between the ASEAN countries and Viet Nam and between the international proponents of compromise and those who oppose compromise will be long and difficult.

— Yang Mu

Italy

Political situation undergoes change

THE Italian general election in June, the country's ninth since World War II, caused a great stir in political circles as the dominant ruling Christian Democratic Party suffered heavy losses in both houses.

The Christian Democrats lost 18 seats in the Senate, 5.9 per cent fewer than in 1979 and 37 in the Chamber of Deputies, 5.4 per cent fewer than in 1979. This was the party's largest election setback since 1953.

The Christian Democratic Party, with only a slight majority in both houses, has not agreed to form a coalition government with the second largest party, the Italian Communist Party. Instead, it has sought unity with the Social Democratic Party and other smaller parties. These parties'

differences about internal policies, economic policy in particular, will cause difficulties for the new government.

Political Secretary of the Christian Democratic Party, Ciriaco De Mita said, "We hold that the elections have made government more difficult."

"It will be more difficult to govern the state now, than under the last parliament," said Pietro Longo, General Secretary of the Social Democratic Party.

It is widely believed in Rome that the political situation will remain unstable and the country will see frequent changes in government.

Reasons for Changes

Italy's frequent changes in government can be attributed to political, economic and social factors.

Italy's political system gives its parliament a great deal of power. After World War II, the Italian people demanded the formation of a free democratic republic and legal measures to prevent the revival of fascist

forces. Italy's Constitution, adopted in 1947, makes the president and prime minister subservient to the parliament. The parliamentary seats are allocated proportionately to each party, large or small, according to the percentage of votes it receives. This has prevented the revival of a dictatorial system but also has legitimized a plethora of parties and factions. As a result, some major issues are never resolved because of factional disputes. Thus, the government is weak and easily changed.

Unresolved economic difficulties have contributed to sharp political contradictions. Italy lacks natural resources and its economic base is weak. Its economy largely relies on imports and exports. With both long-term inflation and a high rate of unemployment Italy owes many official and private debts and has large financial deficits. Because no economic solution has been found, in the latter part of the 70s the average life of each government was less than nine months.

— Ren Yan

West Germany

Chancellor Kohl's visit to Moscow

WEST German Chancellor Helmut Kohl ended his four-day visit to the Soviet Union on July 7 with little progress being made in his talks with the Soviet leaders on the Euromissile issue which was high on the agenda.

This lack of progress was not at all surprising as prior to Kohl's Moscow visit the two sides had repeatedly declared their intransigent positions on

the question of the deployment of new US missiles in West Germany.

Kohl had made it plain in a series of statements that "only a strong and unified Europe, together with its friends and North American allies, can carry on the necessary dialogue with the countries of the East, a dialogue necessary for maintaining world peace," and that

"Europe should be a solid pillar of Atlantic alliance."

In Moscow, after his two days of talks with the Soviet leaders, Kohl, the first NATO head of government to meet Yuri Andropov since the latter was elected Soviet President last month, said that he had made it clear to the Soviet leaders that his government was committed to the policy of peace and renunciation of force and he had stressed West Germany's role as a member of NATO.

If the Soviet-US Geneva talks fail, Kohl told a news conference on July 6, the Federal Republic of Germany will have US medium-range missiles deployed on its territory on schedule. However, he said that it was his hope that the Soviet Union and the United States will reach some interim agreement on missile deployment by the end of the year.

German Reunification

Kohl also said that he had gone to Moscow not to negotiate for others or to act as anyone's interpreter but to defend the interests of his country. He disclosed that the question of the reunification of Germany was a major point in his two-day meeting with Andropov and other Soviet leaders.

Kohl, thus, became the first West German leader to publicly talk about German reunification during a visit to Moscow.

Despite his differences with the Soviet leaders on the Euromissile issue and the question of the reunification of Germany, Kohl said he was satisfied with his talks in Moscow. He described them as being "serious, open and direct," and said they were of significance to the development of relations between West Germany and the Soviet Union.

Continuation of "Detente"

Kohl's trip to Moscow, at a time when bilateral relations between Bonn and Moscow and East-West relations as a whole have become strained, was regarded by many in Bonn to be the most important West German-Soviet contact since 1955 when Chancellor Konrad Adenauer opened up relations with the Soviet Union.

In the nine months after he took office on October 1 last year, Kohl had devoted most of his attention to strengthening West Germany's ties with the United States and its West European allies. However, this did not mean that he had thrown overboard the 1970s policy of the then ruling Social Democratic Party of "Ostpolitik" which emphasized "detente" with the Soviet Union and sought to alleviate the Soviet military threat through agreements and economic co-operation with Moscow.

Although the Kohl administration's stress on foreign policy differed from that of its predecessor, the Schmidt administration, West Germany's position and interests make it imperative that Kohl, too, must continue to pursue a policy of "detente" and co-operation in its relations with the Soviet Union.

Bonn hopes that good relations with Moscow will enable it to have a bigger voice in world affairs and more room to manoeuvre between the United States and the Soviet Union; ensure it of the Soviet and East European markets and supplies of energy and raw materials from them and, through economic and technological co-operation, to exert some influence on the Soviet Union and the East European countries. Bonn also hopes that the Soviet Union will respond posi-

tively to its efforts to promote East-West German relations and do nothing to impair its efforts.

On the other hand, the Soviet Union, proceeding from its European and global strategy, regards West Germany as an important link in its "peace offensive" against the West. This has resulted in a considerable amount of trade, economic and scientific exchanges between the two countries even though East-West military confrontation and the danger of war have increased.

Kohl's visit to the Soviet Union has underlined the fact that though the two countries differ sharply on the problem of European security and other international issues, they both agree that their economic and trade relations should continue to develop.

— Duan Ping

Bulgaria

Improving foreign trade structure

BULGARIA is actively developing its trade relations and economic co-operation with other countries, thus steadily improving its domestic economy and foreign trade.

In 1981, Bulgaria basically completed all targets of its national economic programme. The national income increased by 5 per cent, the gross value of industrial output by 4.3 per cent, the gross value of agricultural output by 4.7 per cent, the combined total of imports and exports by 11.5 per cent, and its international payments were roughly balanced. In 1982, its foreign trade reached US\$23,000 million, a 9 per cent increase over 1981.

One important reason for these achievements is that Bulgaria has carried out a series of reforms in its foreign trade structure. External trade has an important place in the country's economy because 75 per cent of the national income is related to foreign trade.

While insisting that the state monopolize external trade, the Bulgarian Government has adopted the following major measures to improve the management of foreign trade.

1. Economic Means

Wage System. The wages of foreign trade personnel are based on annual performance projections. At the end of the year, wages are adjusted according to economic results. Wages are thus determined by work efficiency, especially in the field of exports. Those doing the same work, draw different pay according to their different abilities and contributions.

Export Bonuses. Bonuses are distributed among production units and foreign trade departments, in proportions stipulated by the Ministry of Foreign Trade. Bonuses are designed to reward those who make outstanding achievements.

Foreign Exchange Fund. This fund has been established to help enterprises boost production, upgrade products for export and pay for the introduction of advanced technology from abroad.

2. Improving Ties Between Production and Foreign Trade

An important structural reform in Bulgaria's foreign trade system concerns the relationship between its foreign trade organ-

izations and the producer enterprises. The foreign trade organizations, which in the past acted as independent middlemen, now act as agents for the producers. In the past, the two parties signed contracts under which foreign trade firms purchased products from production units. The producers simply fulfilled planned targets assigned to them, produced the types, number and quality of products specified by the contract, and then delivered these products to the foreign trade companies. The producer had no say in the sale of its products on the international markets and did not have to be bothered about the final sales. As a result, they took no interest in whether and how their products earned foreign exchange, nor did they take any initiative to raise export efficiency.

Foreign trade divisions now deal with foreign merchants on behalf of the producer enterprises, and are paid by the latter. When the producer needs a quick sale or there are unusual market conditions, the producer will pay the agent a higher commission. On the other hand, when the agent fails to perform its duty, it will suffer the economic consequences.

Since 1979, production units have been given greater rights to participate, directly or indirectly, in foreign trade activities. They have to keep themselves informed on world market quotations and on the sales of their products. Thus production for export is directly linked to international markets.

3. Training Specialists

The reformed foreign trade system requires that foreign trade facilities employ staff

members through examinations. Staff members must master the language of the countries to which they are assigned and must be specialists in some field. Specialization is directly related to economic efficiency in foreign trade.

In order to meet the needs of its national economic transformation and expand foreign trade, Bulgaria will make further efforts to restructure and perfect its system of foreign trade.

—Wang Dadao

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Contents of the Issue No. 3, 1983

- Fluctuation of Oil Price and Its Prospect—Yang Wei
- Nixon and US Foreign Relations—Qian Dayong
- Problems in Brazil's Economic Development—Zhong Lian
- Latin American Economic Development: Present State and Problems—Wang Yaozeng
- Western Europe and North-South Dialogue—Hu Jie
- Delicate Position of Western Europe as Reflected in the Recent West German Election—Zhu Yiqing

Report From Overseas

- Problems in ASEAN Economies—A Report on the Second US-ASEAN Conference—Xue Mouhang
- South Asia Seeking a Regional Security Strategy—Ye Zhengjia
- Third World Indebtedness and Its Implications—You Zhongwen and Zhen Bingxi

Book Review

- A Valuable Book on International Law—Comments on "International Law," a Text Book for Higher Education—Li Zerui
- A Survey of Zaire's Rural Area—Tian Yimin and Yang Rongjia

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Shanghai Families Cited

by Our Correspondent Wu Naitao

IN China the family remains the most fundamental unit of society. No longer encumbered by the pre-liberation feudal requirements for blood relationships, the Chinese society has established new ethical standards embodied in the concept of a "five goods" family.

The "five goods" required of a family are: diligent work and study; consideration for the family members as well as neighbours; careful family planning and attention to children's education; observance of law and discipline; and courteous public behaviour.

For a closer look at "five goods" families, I visited a neighbourhood called Chenjiaqiao in the Nanshi District of Shanghai, China's largest city with a population of 11,850,000.

"Five goods" families there are elected by local residents. Usually there are few disagreements about which families deserve the title, since families share a courtyard or an apartment building entryway with others and thus tend to know each other quite well. Shanghai has 41,000 "five goods" families and the whole nation has 3.8 million.

Many of those interviewed agreed that the election of "five goods" families is an incentive for practising socialist ethics and has had an overall positive effect on families and neighbourhoods.

Following are several examples of Chenjiaqiao families who have been elected.

The Respected Mother-in-Law

Mrs. Yu was expected to be an obedient servant first to her own father, then to her husband's parents, her husband and ultimately her son, according to the rules of filial piety in feudal society.

The wife of an eldest son, she was the first daughter-in-law in a large extended family and suffered frequent humiliation at the hands of

her parents-in-law. After her husband died when she was 38, leaving her with a 10-year-old daughter and a three-year-old son, her position became even worse.

Her son, Yu Chunlin, now 32, said that one of his earliest memories was that his mother suffered constant abuse as a daughter-in-law.

As New China began painstakingly to discard those destructive feudal practices, Mrs. Yu became determined that she would never treat a daughter-in-law as she had been treated.

Today at the age of 67, living with her son and his wife, Sun Lingdi, 28, an inspector at the Shanghai Radio Factory, her determination remains strong. Although she is aging, she does the bulk of the housework.

Sun Lingdi, who is still recovering from a bout with hepatitis several years ago, recognizes the invaluable role her mother-in-law has played. As a result of Mrs. Yu's help, last year Sun did not miss a day of work at her factory.

Sun lost her own mother in childhood and has always envied women who were close to their mothers. "Now I have the mother's love I lost," she said.

Aside from cooking, cleaning and tailoring some of the family's clothing, Mrs. Yu's main duty is caring for her two-and-a-half-year-old grandson. At one time Sun Lingdi was worried that the responsibilities were too great for her mother-in-law and tried to send the child to a nursery. But a week later, Mrs. Yu asked Sun Lingdi to bring the child home, saying he was like a pearl on her palm that she never tired of watching.

Sun Lingdi quoted an old Chinese saying, "Only after a couple brings up a child can they understand how much they owe to their parents."

"Although we have only one child and he is still young, we already realize what a big job it is to be parents. I really want to make my

mother-in-law's life happy, to repay her for all she has done," Sun Lingdi said.

In total, Sun's radio factory salary and the wages of her husband who works at the railway freight station, the young couple earns more than 130 yuan a month. As a measure of respect, Sun and Yu have put Mrs. Yu in charge of the money and the household accounts.

They also make efforts to provide her with special food. She is from the north of China, where the staple foods are steamed bread and other wheat products. Although the young couple has adopted the south China dietary habits and prefer rice, Sun and Yu always make northern style wheat flour dumplings on holidays, as well as cakes. Their child has picked up the habit of offering his grandmother bites of his own treats.

They also buy her gifts of clothing and special medicines whenever they can. But they are well aware that these are not what Mrs. Yu likes best.

"She doesn't really care much about nice food and clothing," said Sun Lingdi, who dresses quite simply herself, despite Shanghai's reputation for high fashion. "She really wants company more than anything."

Sun Lingdi sets aside some time every day to talk with her mother-in-law and frequently accompanies her to the cinema.

"My daughter-in-law treats me even better than my own daughter," said Mrs. Yu.

The Model Husband

Dai Bugao has two full-time jobs — one as a printer and one as a nurse to his bed-ridden wife.

His life is a little easier than it used to be now that his two sons are married and living in their own homes and his daughter, a shop assistant, contributes to the household income and helps with the housework.

When the children were small he did it all himself. Despite government aid, in those early years he found it difficult to make ends meet.



The Yu family.

But he always put aside some money for his wife's medicine.

His wife, Fang Hongling, was a victim of the poverty of the old society. Her parents died when she was just 11 years old. The only way she could earn enough to eat was by doing laundry. Day after day she scrubbed other people's clothing, her hands and bare feet constantly immersed in icy water, even on the bitterest winter days.

Eventually the physical abuse took its toll and she developed chronic rheumatoid arthritis. Often her swollen joints caused her such pain that she could not get out of bed.

She grew progressively worse, especially after the birth of her second child, and although the medicine she took relieved the pain, its side effect was a softening of her bones that will eventually lead to paralysis. In fact, quite recently her doctor told her that it was a medical miracle that she is not yet paralyzed.

She credits her husband for her relatively good health. He massages her to prevent muscular atrophy, feeds her when she is too weak to eat and pays constant attention to her.

In moments of despair, she has begged him to give her sleeping pills so he would be rid of her. He has always responded, "Don't be ridiculous. We will grow old and white-hair together."

At other times, the frustration of her disease has made her irritable. She has snapped

at him, picking quarrels and accusing him of wishing her dead.

His response has been silence, self control and a sustained effort to understand his wife's plight.

"Of course sometimes I have wanted to leave. I experienced fierce mental struggle. But in the end I knew I could not live with an easy mind if I attained happiness at my wife's expense," he said.

Most of the time Fang Hongling is very grateful to her husband and fondly recalls their life together—their first meeting, their courtship, her husband's tireless efforts to assist her.

"Although I am temperamental, we have never had a really serious quarrel," she said. "We always forgive each other."

Dai Bugao will not take full credit for his wife's successful battle with her disease, pointing out that their neighbours have been tremendously supportive.

In addition to arthritis, Fang Hongling suffers from high blood pressure and heart disease. Seven times in the past two years, she has had simultaneous attacks of all three diseases and suddenly lost consciousness.

The neighbours found her, rushed her to the hospital and summoned her husband.

Dai also credits the hospital and local clinic staff who visit Fang regularly and provide low-cost medical care.

Fang's illness has placed burdens on her children, as well. Their daughter, 28, has had a particularly difficult time finding a husband because many young men do not want to share the care for her sick mother. But Dai Changying has insisted on waiting until she found a man who would not force her to choose between himself and her mother. Today she is engaged to a man who admires her devotion.

Because Dai was able to continue working despite his wife's illness, he was cited as an advanced worker. When he arrived home with the certificate, he ceremoniously hung it above his wife's bed. "It is yours as well as mine," he said.

Last March, Fang Hongling wrote several letters to the First Shanghai Medical College, offering her body to science. "If society had not shown such concern," she wrote, "I would have died long ago. I haven't done much for society, so if my body can help you find ways to treat those suffering from similar diseases, I will consider it my contribution to the modernization drive."

Model Teacher's Family Life

Yang Yuhuan, 38, is an overseas Chinese from Indonesia who has taught physical education at the Shanghai No. 8 Girls' Middle School for more than a decade. She has devised her own teaching method that conforms to the physical and psychological development of her students. Her story was carried by several national newspapers and her teaching method drew attention from education circles. As a result she was cited a national "Excellent Physical Education Teacher," "Advanced Overseas Chinese Worker," as well as a municipal model worker



Yang Yuhuan discusses physical cultural education with her husband.

of Shanghai. Yet few people know that behind her success is her husband's work at home.

Chen Fuchang, three years older than Yang Yuhuan, is an overseas Chinese from Laos. They met when they both were studying at the Wuhan Institute of Physical Education. After graduation they were assigned to Shanghai to engage in physical education in middle schools.

They live in one 18-square-metre room in an apartment building in Chenjiaqiao with their two teenaged sons. As China's housework is far from being socialized or electrified, it remains a heavy burden to most families. For young and middle-aged intellectuals, these duties are even more problematic. Usually, one partner has the main responsibility for the housework so that the other can concentrate his or her efforts on work. Such is the situation of Yang Yuhuan and her husband. Chen Fuchang does all the housework chores such as shopping, cooking, washing and caring for the children.

Chen Fuchang is delighted with and proud of his wife's achievements. Referring to the "division of labour," he said, "We were both determined to dedicate ourselves to improving middle school physical education and the youngsters' health. But during the 'cultural revolution' the schools were in turmoil and I was affected psychologically. Thereafter I suffered from kidney stone. After the operation, I began to teach geography because of continued pain. Then, with the births of the kids, our housework increased. I decided to do more at home so that my wife could pursue her career."

Several times the couple has declined invitation from relatives to go abroad.

Between the Older and Younger Generations

Retired worker Luo Jiuzhang and his wife live with their 40-year-old only son and daughter-in-law because housing shortages prevented the younger couple from moving to their own home after their marriage.

Luo's daughter-in-law, the eldest girl of a well-to-do family, was not good at doing housework. Her mother-in-law was not satisfied with her and she thought the old lady was too gar-

rulous. They often quarrelled and their relationship gradually became strained.

Finally the two generations began to cook and eat their meals separately. When the older couple fell ill, the younger couple did not care for them.

At the beginning of the "five-goods" family campaign, the residents' committee, a self-administering grass-roots organization, publicized the significance of the campaign and the "five goods" criteria at meetings and on public blackboards. Then, the residents elected the first group of "five goods" families. This served as an incentive for the other 10,000 Chenjiaqiao households to emulate these examples.

Under these circumstances, the inharmoonious Luo family became eye-offending. Their neighbours as well as cadres at the residents' committee often visited them, trying to persuade them to mend their ways. The Luo family members were moved by their neighbours' concern. They began to forgive and help each other and the tensions relaxed. The daughter-in-law, who used to address her parents-in-law with "hey," began calling them "father" and "mother."

Today the family has changed. When the elders fall ill, their daughter-in-law accompanies them to the hospital and prepares medicinal herbs and food for them. She also asks her children to help with their grandparents' housework and invites them to watch TV in her room. There are no longer quarrels in the Luo family, according to their neighbours.

Not long ago the Luo family was selected a "five goods" family. But the daughter-in-law said they did not deserve it. "We have made some progress," she noted, "but ours is not yet as harmonious as other 'five goods' families."

The experiences of the Chenjiaqiao neighbourhood shows that it is not easy to obtain the campaign's main goals: Let all people love one another; let all families be harmonious. However, the "five goods" family campaign has already achieved good results and it has promoted social morality. In Huayuangang, a section of the Chenjiaqiao neighbourhood, the monthly average of civil disputes have decreased from seven to one and in 1982 its larceny cases were cut by half, compared with the previous year. □



China's Administrative Regions

Yunnan: A multinational frontier province

by Our Correspondent Zhou Zheng

On an early spring day, Zhou Zheng, a senior "Beijing Review" reporter, boarded an airplane in Beijing with a team of her journalist colleagues from the capital. Three hours later she arrived in Kunming, the capital of Yunnan Province, thus commencing an exciting 38-day fact-finding tour in this remote southwest Chinese province. Her Journey of 4,500 kilometres along the Hengduan Mountain paths in western Yunnan brought her into frequent contact with the local minority peoples as well as officials at the provincial, prefectural and county levels. On her recent return to Beijing, she filed the following reports. — Ed.

ties. Some of the ethnic groups inhabit both sides of the borders.

A Land of Charm

Located in a low-latitude zone, Yunnan is unique in its complex topography and climate. In some areas it is always as hot as summer, cooling a little only after rain falls, while in most areas perennial spring is the rule. The capital city of Kunming, known as the "City of Spring," is carpeted all year round with colourful flowers and lush green trees.

Natural resources abound.

In fact, Yunnan is a "Kingdom of Plants," the home for half of the nation's nearly 30,000 high-grade plants and almost all of the wild plants in the world. Large tracts of virgin forests are overgrown with

Nationalities policy: fruitful results

YUNNAN is a southwest Chinese frontier province which borders on Burma in the west and Laos and Viet Nam in the south. Slightly bigger than Japan, it is 4 per cent of the national territory at 394,000 square kilometres and has a population of 32.55 million, one-third (10.31 million) of whom

belong to 24 of the nation's 55 minority nationalities.

Fifteen of these minority peoples — the Bais, Hanis, Dais, Lisus, Lahus, Vas, Jingpos, Bulangs, Pumis, Nus, Naxis, Achangs, Benglongs, Drungs and Jinuos — mostly live in this province in compact communi-

FEATURE YUNNAN

blooming mountain flowers, but regrettably, some of the luxuriant wooded areas have been wantonly denuded.

Both state farms and rural communes are expanding the cultivation of cash crops such as rubber trees, shellac-yielding Chinese tallow trees, sugarcane and tea. Rare trees and flowers are grown in tropical botanical gardens. Trees of the palm family are ubiquitous. A banyan tree is a forest in itself, capable of shielding 1,000 people from the scorching sun.

The dragon dracaena provide the raw material for making "dragon's blood" (*Daemonorops draco*), a precious medicine: while devilpeppers (*Rauwolfia verticillata*) are efficacious for curing high blood pressure. Mayten trees (*Maytenus hookeri*) has certain curative effects on cancer. The towering upas-trees (*Antiaris toxicaria*) provide hunters with a poisonous agent to make their arrows into deadly weapons.

Yunnan is also known as a natural zoo. In the primitive forests of Xishuangbanna, for example, elephants, wild oxen,

tigers, leopards, muntjacs, black golden monkeys and peacocks roam freely.

It is a land of non-ferrous metals as well. Of the 140 useful mineral resources in the world, Yunnan boasts 110. Gejiu, one of its cities, is internationally known for its tin resources. Abundant, too, are reserves of copper, lead and zinc in this southwest Chinese province.

But above all, Yunnan is a land of enduring, surpassing charm, its landscape studded with famous scenic spots and places of historical interest—sites like the monumental stone forest 100 kilometres from Kunming and the breathtakingly beautiful Erhai Lake nestled in the snow-clad mountains in Dali County.

For all its natural beauty and rich resources, this remote frontier province remained a destitute and isolated place in old society, a dream-land to many in the rest of the world. It was torn apart by warring feudal warlords and tribal chiefs. This, coupled with primitive transportation, seriously

retarded the advance of history. In virgin forests, not a few minority people subsisted upon slash-and-burn farming and kept records by tying knots. With barely enough food and clothing, they often fell prey to diseases. There were no doctors and little medicine. Once a pernicious contagious disease erupted, an entire hamlet could perish within a matter of days.

A "Living History Book"

By the time of liberation in 1949, only some of the Yis, Bais and Huis in Yunnan enjoyed more or less the same social and economic development as the Hans, while the Dais, Hanis, Achangs and Tibetans inhabiting the border areas remained under feudal serfdoms and slave systems, and the Lisus, Vas, Benglongs and Jingpos retained vestiges of primitive society to varying degrees. This earned Yunnan the name "Living History Book." These miscellaneous social formations are still influential today, and have caused an imbalance in economic development.

In the Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture, comfortable peasant houses dot the rice paddies promising a bumper harvest. Decorated with wooden carvings and imbedded with marble, they are of an architectural style that outshone that of the Hans.

In river basins in the Dehong Dai and Jingpo Autonomous Prefecture, spacious well-ventilated bamboo and wood houses are secluded in the coolness of large bamboo groves, coconut and banana trees and in their gardens, medicinal herbs such as *Fructus Amomi* grow luxuriantly. Each house is a villa in its own right, whose comfort city people can only envy.

But there is another side to this life. In the mountain



The Santa (Tri-Pagoda) Temple in Dali.

hamlets inhabited by the Benglongs and Jingpos, history seems to have stood still. There, society has just developed to the point where primitive communes are teetering on the brink of disintegration to be replaced by modern social organizations. The villagers still live in primitive mud-and-bamboo abodes thatched with grass. There are no windows. Every room is barely furnished and blackened with grime from the fireplace right in its centre. A nearby hydropower station which provides electricity to each family is the only sign of the modern times.

The life style of the Jiuos on the Youle Mountain, who were identified as an independent ethnic group only a few years ago, evokes the memory of a primitive clan society. The 22 members of a clan headed by a peasant named Bai Mula, for example, live under the same roof of a big house. It has several partitions for the seven families — of Bai Mula's brothers, cousins and mother-in-law. A string of braziers — one for each family — are located in the centre of the house. Anthropologists agree that this is typical of a primitive gregarious living style.

A change, nevertheless, is taking place. One of Bai Mula's "neighbours" is a tea-processing workshop equipped with a power-driven machine.

The majority of the inhabitants on the Youle Mountain have shed the primitive large group living style but instead live in groups of threes and fours — mostly nuclear families (couples with young children). One of Bai Mula's sons is a middle school graduate and today, as a bank clerk, he lives away from his father's uncomfortable house.

Social Progress

How can so many nationalities with such diversity in social development achieve common progress and contribute to the cause of socialism? This was one of the major issues Yunnan had to come to grips with in the early 1950s.

Before liberation, the ruling class of Han nationality, apart from exploiting and oppressing the labouring Hans who made up 94 per cent of China's population, also was notorious for its cruel treatment of the minority peoples, who were economically and culturally lagging behind.

As some of the minority people had no idea about what class contradiction was, they blamed the Hans for their own miserable plight. Hence the profound animosity between them and the Han people.

In order to terminate the feudal landlord economy, rural land reform was conducted nationwide in the early 1950s, during which the land was returned to the tiller. This was

followed by farm collectivization a few years later.

In Yunnan, the government used flexible methods geared to the specific conditions of each minority people to effect these changes, thus gaining the support of the local people.

Bao Tongkong (48, of Jingpo nationality), who is chief procurator of Dehong Prefecture, explained how the government policies worked:

"Before liberation," he said, "we had a very bad impression of the Hans. We didn't know it was Kuomintang bandits who killed our people, burnt our houses and plundered our property. It was only greedy merchants who came to bleed us. So, when word came that the Liberation Army was on its way to our hamlet, everybody was horrified. Our tribal heads and *shanguans* [upper-class Jingpos] were the first to flee.

"However, when a work team organized by the PLA and the Communist Party entered the village, they were not what we thought them to be. Their mem-



At a rural fair in a Bai-inhabited area.



A Va woman.

bers were mostly Hans, yet they were very friendly to us."

Before liberation, a considerable part of a Jingpo village's farmland, forests and pastures was publicly owned. Individuals could till paddy fields for private use as long as they wished, but were not allowed to sell them. The headmen and *shanguans* had some land at their own disposal, but they did not live off the labour of fellow Jingpos.

Thus they were not considered the same as Han landlords, who got their comeuppance for cruelly oppressing and exploiting the peasants. Instead, the work team befriended them and treated all the Jingpos equally well.

By uniting with the upper-class people, Bao said, the work team rallied all the Jingpos.

The government sent in doctors and medical supplies to cure and prevent diseases, extended loans so that the poor peasants could buy draught animals and seeds and shipped in

much needed salt. Before long the work team developed a rapport with the villagers.

In 1956, when the socialist cooperative movement swept across the country, many minority peoples joined the movement.

The Communist Party respected the customs and habits of the minority peoples and never pushed them to change too rapidly. Instead, it patiently persuaded them to discard outmoded customs.

For example, in the Ava Mountains, human heads were offered as sacrifices every year to celestial beings for a good rice harvest, a custom which was still current among a few hamlets at the time of liberation. If the heads offered had big beards, the Va people believed, a good crop would be ensured. So when harvest season approached, raids were mounted here and there in the mountains against men of other nationalities.

When work teams composed of Hans and local minority people entered this area in the early 1950s, they decided to uproot this custom by convincing the Vas that only scientific farming, rather than any superhuman beings, could be counted upon for good harvests.

At first the Vas were sceptical about this new idea. So when they began to do as they were told — applying fertilizer to the land and improving field management — they substituted pig or chicken heads for human heads as sacrifices to the divinity. Only when they saw bumper harvests were really in sight did they completely abandon this barbarous practice.

Self-Government and Equality

The people of different nationalities in Yunnan, while in-

termingling with each other, often live in compact communities. Organizations of self-government are set up within the framework of the Constitution in counties and prefectures where one nationality (or two) makes up the majority of the population.

For instance, Dali is a Bai autonomous prefecture with one city and 12 counties under its jurisdiction, but two of the counties are governed by other nationalities: the Weishan Yi and Hui Autonomous County and the Nanjian Yi Autonomous County.

The famous Xishuangbanna Prefecture is self-governed by the Dais. Diqing Prefecture is run by Tibetans.

All told, Yunnan has eight autonomous prefectures (encompassing 57 counties and five autonomous counties) and 19 autonomous counties (five of them in autonomous prefectures). Of the province's 130 cities and counties, 59 per cent are self-governed by minority peoples. Leaders of a minority-dominated prefecture or county are mostly elected from among the minority nationality that makes up the majority of the local population.

The Constitution stipulates: "The people of all nationalities have the freedom to use and develop their own spoken and written languages, and to preserve or reform their own ways and customs."

Therefore, local languages are used in publications and the mass media. In the Dehong Dai and Jingpo Autonomous Prefecture (population: 600,000), the local journal *Tuan Jie Bao* (Unity) is published in four languages — Han, Dai, Jingpo and Lisu; *Kongque* (Peacock), a literary journal, has three language editions; and the Yunnan Provincial People's Broadcasting

Station operates in standard Chinese and six minority tongues.

In April this year, the people's congress of Dehong Prefecture decided to restore and designate holidays for the local inhabitants of different nationalities. Thus, the Dais and Benglongs get two days off the Water Splashing Festival, the Jingpos celebrate the *Monao* Carnival, the Achangs take off days for the *Woluo* and *Huijie* Festivals and the Lisus celebrate the New Year's Dancing and Singing Festival.

The Dali *Sanyuejie* Festival in late April was once a reli-

gious ceremony of Bai nationality, but now has become a large-scale fair. People of various nationalities from other parts of the country participate in it, selling draught animals, medicinal herbs, tea, articles for daily use and so on. The festival offers horse races, dances and flower displays. For young people it is the ideal dating time. The *Sanyuejie* Festival this year was the biggest in recent years.

Like elsewhere in China, Yunnan suffered a great deal at the hands of "Leftists" during the "cultural revolution" (1966-76). The time-honoured traditions of the local minority peoples were ignored, and injustices were done to some of the local officials. Fortunately that is now history. For instance, 14,000 of the people who fled to foreign countries as a result of the erroneous policies have already returned to their home villages.

Many minority people are extremely patriotic. In the Cangyuan Va Autonomous County, Bao Hongzhong, 53, a deputy to the Sixth National People's Congress, explained that in the 1930s, his father,



The Water-Splashing Festival of the Dai people.

who was the leader of the Banlao Tribe, led the local people in defeating a group of British colonialists who attempted to plunder the rich silver and lead ores of Yunnan.

Like the Vas, the other 23 minority peoples in Yunnan have elected their deputies to the people's congresses at the national, provincial and local levels.



1. Deqen Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture
2. Nujiang Lisu Autonomous Prefecture
3. Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture
4. Weishan Yi and Hui Autonomous County
5. Nanjian Yi Autonomous County
6. Chuxiong Yi Autonomous Prefecture
7. Dehong Dai and Jingpo Autonomous Prefecture
8. Lincang Prefecture
9. Simao Prefecture
10. Honghe Hani and Yi Autonomous Prefecture
11. Wenshan Zhuang and Miao Autonomous Prefecture
12. Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture

Developing economy

EQUALITY, unity and mutual assistance characterize the relationships between the people of different nationalities in Yunnan. The government promotes these relationships and helps develop the economy.

Diverse Economic Undertakings

A few years ago, the Bangwai production brigade of the Santaishan commune in the mountainous Luxi County, west

Yunnan, was destitute. Its members — Benglongs, Jingpos and a few Hans — had sought to shake off poverty by demolishing the forests so that they could obtain more farmland and sell the felled trees as firewood. The result was that the vegetation cover was damaged, with no substantial improvement in their livelihood.

In 1982, Zhao Junxian, a 51-year-old Han cadre, was sent to help the Bangwai brigade develop production. The first thing



The family of Zhang San, a Jingpo peasant.

he did was to organize a team of 40 middle and primary school graduates to plant sugarcane on a hectare of land on the arid, barren mountain slope. But due to poor field management, the crop was damaged by cattle and ants and very little was harvested.

Undaunted by the failure, the second year they grew 4 hectares of sugarcane and through careful field work harvested 430 tons. They then began to plant tea. Soon, some Benglongs and Jingpos contracted to raise cash crops, and vastly augmented their incomes.

The family of Yang Er, a Benglong, lives on the top of a mountain. This year the family earned 1,000 yuan from growing sugarcane alone. Outside his comfortable bamboo house, his granary was packed to overflowing while more grain was sunning on the balcony. A

joyous atmosphere filled the home of the Yangs.

For Zhang San, a Jingpo peasant living midway on the mountain slope, sugarcane growing is a lucrative business. Last year, he earned 3,000 yuan from growing grain and sugarcane. With the money he built a new brick-and-tile house, which in the past only a *shangguan* could afford to build.

Both the Yangs and Zhangs are in the well-to-do bracket in the Santaishan Commune. But they still maintain their simple life styles. It seems that it hasn't occurred to them that they could add some new fixtures to their bare rooms.

However, the young people who work on the commune sugarcane and tea plantations have already got their first taste of modern life. About half of them wear wristwatches. Most of them are well attired. When night falls, they gather before TV sets for entertainment.

The expanded sugarcane cultivation has brought in its wake a thriving sugar-refining industry. In the peak season this year, cane sugar output in Dehong Prefecture topped 73,000 tons; in contrast, the 1976 figure was a meagre 13,000 tons.

In the past, only 18 per cent of Dehong's farm produce was sold as commodities; in 1982, it reached 50 per cent. Sugar accounted for 60 per cent of the prefecture's total industrial output value. Small wonder the local people nicknamed sugarcane cultivation a "sweet undertaking."

While sugarcane grows well in Dehong Prefecture, large numbers of tea plantations and tea-processing plants have sprung up in Lincang and Simao Prefectures. In Xishuangbanna, major efforts have been devoted to expanding the acreage of rubber plantations.

This is what the local people learnt from their experiences: grow tea if you want to get rich; grow sugarcane if you want to get rich quick; go plant trees in a big way if you want permanent prosperity.

Well-Fed, Well-Clad

Another boost to the province's economy has been the institution of the production responsibility system and with it, the popularization of scientific farming.

In 1981 and 1982 the province's annual grain output

The Xier River hydropower station.



reached 9.45 million tons and averaged 290 kilogrammes per capita, thus writing a finale to the 10-year stagnation at the 7.5-million-ton level.

Although Yunnan's per-capita income is still below that of the nation's more affluent provinces, it has basically solved the problem of feeding and clothing its 30 million people.

In four years, 26 counties in Yunnan doubled, and nine nearly doubled, their total agricultural incomes. Of these 35 counties, 23 were inhabited by minority people in compact communities. The Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture has developed a famous paddy rice strain, the "Dianyu No. 1," whose per-hectare output runs as high as 11,250 kilogrammes.

Before liberation, Yunnan had very little industry. But it has come a long way in the last three decades. In 1982, its electricity output reached 6,131 million kwh, a 120-fold increase over the 51 million kwh in 1949; and its output of rolled steel grew from 248 tons to 387,100 tons, a 1,560-fold rise. The photoelectric graduating machines, length graduating machines with photoelectric follow-up devices, photoelectric light wave comparators and double-column jig boring machines produced by the Kunming Machine Tools Plant enjoy brisk sales at home and abroad.



A cable suspension bridge across the Luosuo River.

Natural Barrier Turned Into Thoroughfare

In 1924, a Han writer published a book entitled *Travel to Yunnan*. The author, a Shanghai citizen, first went to the French Consulate for a visa to Viet Nam, where there was the shortest railway route into Kunming, the provincial capital. It is said that a century ago it took Yunnan scholars a whole year to arrive at the capital in time for the imperial examinations.

The exchange of commodities relied mainly on horse caravans trudging along the rugged mountain paths. Merchants found their way into out-of-the-way areas inhabited by minority peoples at the risk of their lives just to make money: In these areas, a needle was worth a chicken and half a kilogramme

of salt was worth five kilogrammes of tea.

The poor transportation was due mainly to the fact that 94 per cent of Yunnan's territory is rugged highlands. Deep ravines and high mountains crisscrossed by such rolling rivers as the Jinsha, the Lancang and the Nujiang made it all the more difficult for transport and communications.

So it became a cherished dream for the local people to travel on smooth, wide roads. But old China did very little to fulfil such a dream. There was only one railway to Viet Nam and 2,783 kilometres of highways in those old days.

After liberation, the arduous task of building roads for the local people fell upon the People's Liberation Army. The army built nearly all the highways in this province in the 1950s and almost all the railways in the 1960s. Many of the soldiers and officers have since been demobilized and now work with the various transport departments.

However, not all the roads were paved with government funds. In many cases the local people pooled money to build

Development of Medical Service in Yunnan

Item	1950	1982
Hospitals and medical centres	96	6,293
Medical colleges and schools	2 (one college, one school)	20 (3 colleges, 17 schools)
Doctors and nurses	991	89,793
Barefoot doctors and midwives	0	109,000
Sickbeds	615	62,631

FEATURE YUNNAN

their own roads with government assistance. This vastly accelerated the pace of construction. In the early years of the People's Republic, the level of mechanization was fairly low. Although explosives were used extensively in levelling mountain tops and carving the cliffs, building materials were mostly transported by sheer muscle.

Bulldozers and tunnelling machinery have been introduced in recent years. Many new roads have been paved while old ones were either resurfaced with asphalt or straightened and widened. The 691-kilometre Kunming-Baoshan Highway, for example, was cut by 98 kilometres after being straightened.

Today, an impressive transport network has turned the once forbidden natural barrier into a thoroughfare.

Farewell, god of plague

MALARIA was one of the scourges of Yunnan in old society. In Xishuangbanna and Dehong Prefectures, for example, its incidence could run as high as 50 per cent, according to a survey conducted shortly after liberation.

At the time, production and culture were backward and medicines scanty. The local people ascribed sickness to evil spirits from which there was little hope of escape. This spawned many grotesque practices.

When a patient went into a coma, tribal heads and religious practitioners would stab his side with sharpened tiger teeth while demanding: "Who is the 'pipa demon' that has crept into you?" When the pain became unbear-

able, the patient would mutter a certain name. This spelled the doom for the person bearing that name: He was either robbed of his property and driven out of the village or, in extreme cases, burnt alive. Taking advantage of this habit, some village heads would stigmatize people they disliked as "pipa demons" so as to get rid of them.

Eleven trunk and 1 major branch railway serve the province. The Chengdu-Kunming Railway, open to traffic in 1970, runs 1,100 kilometres through extremely complex topography; it is one of the most spectacular engineering accomplishments in the world. Today, travel by train from Kunming to Beijing takes only three days.

The province has 18 trunk highways with a total length of 6,600 kilometres. In 1972, every county in Yunnan was linked with highways; and by 1982, highways had radiated out to 97 per cent of the rural communes.

Yunnan offers 13 air routes. One of them links Yunnan with Rangoon in Burma and another reaches Xianggang directly. Such an extensive transport network has paved the way for large-scale economic construction.

The Daughter of a "Pipa" Demon

Dao Suzhen, 41, who is deputy head of the prefectural hospital of Xishuangbanna, gives an eyewitness account of pre-liberation society.

When her mother was young, a village head wanted to take her as his concubine. She re-

fused, as she was deep in love with Kang Langer, a young peasant. Piqued, the village head dubbed Kang as a "pipa demon" and prepared to drive him out of the village. The young couple fled to Manlie Village, the destination for all the condemned. There they bore one daughter and two sons. But before long the husband, the daughter and one son died of malaria.

The wife remarried, this time to Ai Yuan, also a condemned "evil spirit," and bore a son who later perished. Four years after the boy's death, Dao Suzhen was born. According to her, her two brothers probably died of pneumonia induced by measles.

Two more sisters were born, and the family ran deep into debt. To repay the debts, Dao Suzhen was sent to a wealthy family as a servant. Only when liberation came did she gain freedom. She went to primary school in 1953. Three years later, she entered a medical training class where she studied for six months before becoming a guide and interpreter for Han



Dao Suzhen at work.

members of a malaria treating and preventing team.

Three years later she was enrolled in a medical school in the provincial capital for a five-year study programme. In 1973 she studied paediatrics for over a year in the Beijing Medical College.

Her husband, also a Dai, is a writer. For their two children — a son and a daughter who are both attending middle school — “*pipa* demons” are nothing but characters that appear in tales spun by their elders.

Times Changed

In dense rain forests in subtropical Yunnan, the weather is always hot and humid, providing the breeding ground for germs. In the old days, malaria, smallpox, cholera, and the plague often stalked the land, taking the lives of many minority peoples there.

There were few hospitals to cope with this. Worse still, medicines were exorbitantly expensive. An injection of atabrine cost 15-20 *bankai* (a kind of silver coin once current in Yunnan) and an injection of penicillin required more than 100 *bankai*. More often than not, the medicines were sold after their efficacy had expired.

A local saying goes, while there is a price for gold in Yunnan, medicines are priceless. The people had few alternatives. Often they appealed to the evil spirits for mercy. In Nongbing Village, Luxi County, 47 cattle and 500 pigs were slaughtered every year as sacrifices.

After liberation, the People's Government dispatched large numbers of medical teams to Yunnan to prevent and cure sickness for the local people although the rest of the nation also badly needed doctors and medicines. The Yunnan people

were mobilized, too, to take an active part in patriotic health campaigns, eliminating mosquitoes and rats, protecting drinking water sources, properly disposing of night soil, and cleaning toilets, kitchens, animal barns and the environment. In this way they reduced the incidence of malaria and other diseases.

Ou Zhenkang, a provincial medical department head, reeled off a string of statistics to show the achievements his province has achieved:

Cholera, which ran rampant in the past, has never erupted since 1953.

In the 183 years between 1772 and 1955, bubonic plague occurred in 88 counties, taking the lives of one million people. In 1956, the province cured the last case of plague among human beings. The patient, now in her eighties, is still alive. Last year, plague was found among rats in two frontier counties. The local people were mobilized to kill fleas and rats, free inoculations were provided for the 50,000 inhabitants, and transport hubs and roadcrosses were sterilized. In this way, plague was checked before it affected human beings.

In 1960 the last case of smallpox was cured.

In the early liberation days, 400,000 people fell victim to malaria. The disease was basically brought under control in the late 1950s thanks to many effective measures taken.

During the “cultural revolution” (1966-76), however, the disease prevention work was suspended and malaria ran rampant again.

The following figures provided by the Luxi County epidemic prevention station show that when prevention work is neg-



Climbing a pole upside down, a favourite sports event of the Miao people.

lected, malaria would occur again:

In 1950, the incidence of malaria stood at 3,603 per 10,000;

In 1972, it shot up to 527 per 10,000;

In 1980, it was reduced to 8.5 per 10,000;

In 1982, only 28,004 cases were discovered throughout Yunnan, and the incidence was brought below 5 per 10,000 in 86 of the province's 130 counties and cities. In other words, malaria has been basically eliminated in these places.

“We should continue to implement the principle of ‘prevention first,’” Ou said. “On no account should we slacken our efforts.” The threat of killer epidemics keeps him conscious of the vital importance of prevention work, he said. □

SPORTS

China wins super-three women's volleyball tourney

China's new women's volleyball team captured the title after two hard matches at the Super-Three Women's Volleyball Tournament in Xianggang (Hongkong) July 6 to 8.

After it won the title of the 9th World Women's Volleyball Championship last year, the Chinese women's volleyball team was reorganized. Some veteran and experienced players retired, including Sun Jinfang, Cao Huiying and Chen Yaqiong, and some new hands were added. Before the tournament, the new Chinese team had not tested itself against the strong US or Japanese teams.

Also, the US team defeated the Chinese team 3:0 in group matches at the 9th World Women's Volleyball Championship. Since then, American team has made new progress. With the powerful spikes of Flo Hyman and Rita Crockett remaining as murderous as ever, its defence has been greatly strengthened.

The Japanese team has also changed considerably. It has a new coach and has added some younger and taller players. Its quick attacks were very menacing and its net blocking was greatly enhanced.

The Chinese team's title was clearly challenged.

On the whole, the combination of veteran players with new comers was a success. The

remaining veteran players, such as Lang Ping, Zhang Rongfang and Zhou Xiaolian, were as valuable as before in the tournament. They set a good example for the new players.

Lang Ping, a 22-year-old from Beijing, has the nickname the "iron hammer" because of her unmatched ability to spike. Her performance at the crucial moments earned her the "best player" title at the tournament.

The new comers also played fairly well in the matches. Yang Xilan, who replaced Sun Jinfang as the setter of the Chinese team and took part in an important international match for the first time, organized the Chinese attacks fairly well. Jiang Ying, another new recruit, also gave an outstanding

performance in attacking, net blocking and defence.

What is more important, the new team inherited the dauntless spirit of the old team. For instance, in the match against the US team, keen competitions were seen in the fourth set when the American dominated the field 15-13, 7-15, 15-9 in the first three sets and leading 14-10 in the fourth. Only one point would enable the US team to win the cliffhanger match of the tournament. At this crucial moment, the Chinese players put up a stiff but steady fight to cruise home, 16-14.

Of course, the matches with



Top right: **Lang Ping** at the awards ceremony.
Bottom: **Lang Ping** (first from right) in the match against the Japanese team.

the US and Japanese teams exposed many problems of the new Chinese team too: Little variation in attacking; ineffective net blocking, especially in the match against the American team; and many errors in defence and attack. These problems show that the new team is still not technically mature and needs greater co-ordination.

Not much time is left before the Olympic Games next year. We hope the young Chinese team will make rapid progress through hard training.

CULTURAL RELICS

Water-spurting ancient basin

In early May, the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco held an exhibition of cultural relics which represented 6,000 years of Chinese art sponsored by Shanghai Museum. It includes 232 pieces of Chinese cultural relics, such as bronze vessels, ceramics, paintings and applied art objects.

One of the exhibits is a brass wash basin (*xi*) made in the Ming Dynasty 400-500 years ago. It is called a fish basin for the four carps cast in bas-relief in the bottom. In ancient China, the fish, a symbol of wealth and love, decorated many basins.

This fish basin can put on quite fascinating show. First,

we place the basin on a folded towel and fill it with clean water. Then when we rub its two handles with our hands back and forth regularly, small waves appear on the surface of the water accompanied by a buzzing sound. As we continue rubbing, four spray of water will soon shoot out of the sides of the basin where the mouths of the four carps are located. It looks as if the fish are spurt-ing water from their mouths. Thus this is called a "water-spurting fish basin."

Why does this basin spurt water? In fact, the basin itself is a vibrating body. Rubbing the handles transmits vibrational energy to the basin. When the frequency of vibration resulting from the rubbing matches the resonant frequency of the walls of the basin, the amplitude of the vibration rises sharply. Isolated from other hard surfaces by the folded

towel, the vibrating walls of the basin produce incident and reflecting waves, that join to form stationary waves. Thus symmetrical, equally spaced wave crests and wave nodes come into being. Water then sprays from the mouths of the fish at the wave crests, but not at the wave nodes.

The resonant vibration pattern of this fish basin can be clearly seen in a laser holographical photo. The two crossed bright lines in the middle are the "node lines" which correspond to the wave nodes and divide the basin into four segments. The centre of each segment corresponds to the wave crests and the carps' mouths are exactly in line with these four crests.

How clever the Chinese craftsmen of ancient times were at designing this water-spurting fish basin utilizing natural laws!



When the two handles of the basin are rubbed, water spurts from the walls of the basin.

'Magic mirror'

Among the many treasures of the Shanghai Museum that are included in its San Francisco tour is the famous Western Han "magic mirror."

It is a circular disc of cast bronze, 7.4 cm in diameter and weighing 50 grams. The front is a smooth, burnished reflecting surface and the back is covered with intricate designs in relief including an eight-character inscription that reads, "The radiance of the sun lights up the earth."

China began to use bronze mirrors four thousand years ago in the late Neolithic Age before glass mirror was invented. They remained popular and were developed by each successive



Intricate designs on the back of the bronze mirror.



"Reflection" of the back designs and characters on a wall when the sun shines on its smooth side.

dynasty right through the Tang Dynasty (618-907 A.D.).

This mirror's unusual feature is that in a strong light the smooth side will cast an image on the wall that is apparently a reflection of the design on the back side of the disc.

The secret of making mirrors like the "translucent" Western Han (206 B.C.-24 A.D.) one had been lost since the Tang Dynasty and remained a mystery for more than two thousand years.

It was finally solved by researchers at the Fudan University's Department of Optics in 1975, with the help of the mu-

seum and the Shanghai Nonferrous Metals Foundry.

By casting a replica of the mirror they found that during the cooling process the front surface of the mirror develops tiny variations in thickness imperceptible to the human eye that corresponded to the designs and characters on the back.

In fact light does not penetrate the mirror at all. Metallographic and X-ray fluorescence analyses and optical tests showed that the thinner areas of the metal disc cool more quickly than the thicker areas. They then constrict, causing them to become slightly convex and thus, the thicker parts to become relatively concave. In the process of reflecting light, the concave areas concentrate the rays and the convex areas diffuse them. Thus the thicker areas reflect

light more brightly than the thinner ones.

The real mystery of the mirror is how the Western Han artisans developed such a sophisticated casting technique in the conditions of their times.

ART

Stone carving from Qingtian

A large stone carving depicting characters and episodes from the Ming Dynasty novel *Journey*

to the West written by Wu Chenen in the mid-16th century, was successfully completed recently by the Qingtian Stone Carving Factory in Zhejiang Province, east China.

The 200-kg piece carved from a 500-kg stone is 1.5 metres long, 0.4 metres wide and 0.7 metres high.

Journey to the West is an epic tale of the Tang Dynasty (618-907) monk Tripitaka, who went to India in search of Buddhist scripture with the help of the magical Monkey King.

Using the different colours on the different parts of the stone to their advantage and through careful designing and ingenious layout, the craftsmen re-present the following six episodes from the novel; "Monkey King Borrows a Treasure From the Dragon Palace," "Monkey King Wreaks Havoc in Heaven," "Flower-and-Fruit Mountain," "Monkey King Subdues the Demon," "Monkey King Borrows a Palm-Leaf Fan Three Times" and "False West Heaven."

The piece presents the monk Tripitaka, his disciples and birds and animals, as well as ghosts and monsters, all in their unique expression. A piece of precious wood inlaid with decorative copper flower designs serves as a bottom frame for the stone.

Qingtian is the home of stone carving because it abounds in jade-like stone. Five craftsmen from the Qingtian Stone Carving Factory, including Zhou Boqi and Zhang Aiting, took 16 months to complete the carving. It will be shown in Xianggang (Hongkong) this coming August.



A corner of Beijing.



Statue of engineer Zhan Tianyou near the Qinglongqiao Railway Station.

*Woodcuts by Zhang
Zuoming*



The Great Wall.

Born in Tangshan, Hebei Province, in 1937, Zhang Zuoming now teaches at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing. His works usually portray life and nature in north China and Beijing.

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