

北京周報

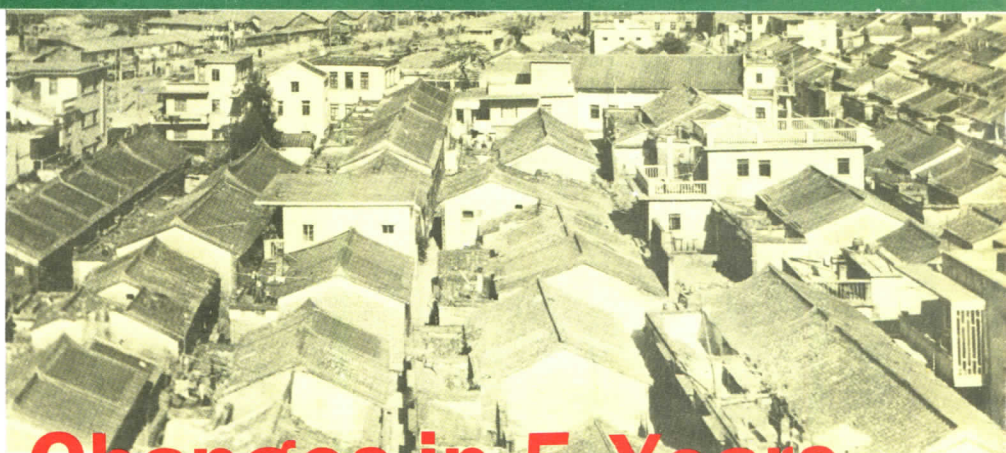
A CHINESE WEEKLY OF NEWS AND VIEWS

# Beijing Review

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February 24, 1986

## BEHIND CHINA'S BALANCED BUDGET

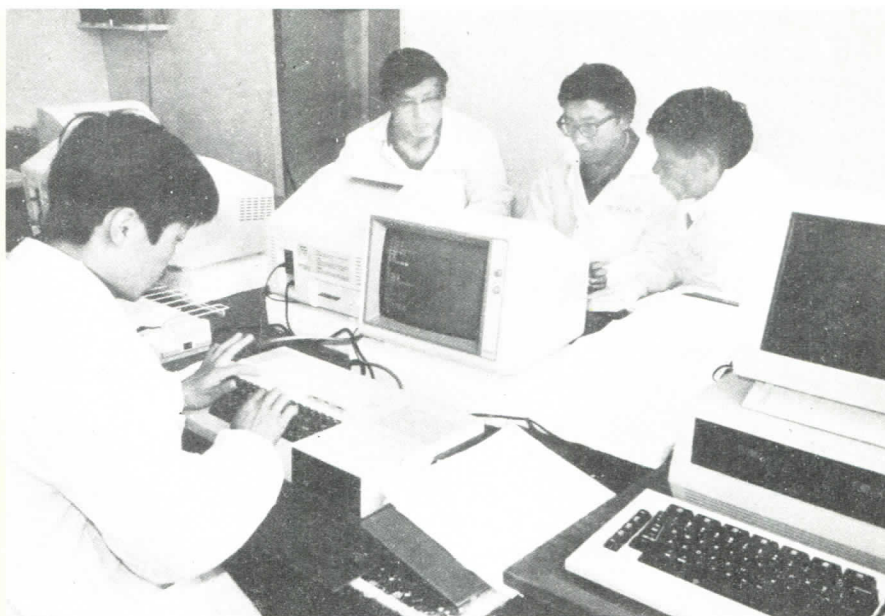


## Shenzhen: Changes in 5 Years



## Tibet University

Teachers of the math and physics departments at Tibet University using computers to prepare their lessons.



Morse (middle) is the first foreigner teaching at Tibet University.

## SPOTLIGHT

Tibetan students testing electronic equipment.

Photos by Tu Deng





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**COVER:** The Shenzhen Special Economic Zone (lower, left) has grown considerably from the hamlet it was five years ago (upper, right).

**Duan Wenhua and Xue Chao**

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

### Behind China's Balanced Budget

In 1985, China logged a 20-percent increase in both state revenue and expenditure over 1984, enabling it to make up a loss of 3 billion yuan as budgeted early in the year and eliminate a six-year-old deficit. This achievement marks a fundamental improvement in China's finances and economics (p. 4).

### Democratic Parties Work for Modern China

China's democratic parties are helping to realize the country's modernization programmes by promoting education, providing consulting services, extending intellectual help to frontier areas, drawing on foreign funds and offering advice on state policies (p. 19).

### Party Directive Tightens Up on Nepotism

In a nationwide crackdown on nepotism, ranking officials in China are called on to exemplarily observe discipline where the promotion of their own offspring and relatives to leading posts is concerned. This is only one of a series of new rules worked out recently to rectify Party conduct and tighten up Party discipline (p. 5).

### Five Years of Changes in Shenzhen

Since its establishment in 1980, the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone has experienced great changes in all fields by following the Party Central Committee directive in conducting economic reforms and adopting special policies. Nevertheless, Shenzhen is plagued by many problems that must be resolved before it can make further progress (p. 14).

### Chinese-Style Ballets Showcased

China's Central Ballet leaves February 19 for its first US tour. The tour programme will highlight recent Chinese choreographies which typify the developments and changes Chinese ballet has gone through in the last few decades (p. 22).

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# China Reins in Disturbing Deficit

by Wang Dacheng

In 1985 with a 20-percent increase in both state revenue and expenditure over the previous year, China made up a loss of 3 billion yuan (about US\$1 billion) as budgeted early in the year and eliminated a six-year-old deficit. This marks a fundamental improvement in China's finances and economics.

Unlike Western countries, the troublesome problem China often encounters in its economic development is not in stimulating, but in checking excessive demand. New China experienced three periods of serious economic confusion and tremendous losses caused by swollen demand in 1958, 1970 and 1978. To put an end to this, China mandated a balance between supply and demand in production, a balance between revenue and expenditure in finance and the elimination of inflation as an important principle guiding economic development. The theoretical foundation on which the principle is based was laid down by Marx.

The principle, however, has not always been properly implemented. The most influential factor impeding its application has been the excessive investment in fixed assets, especially investment in capital construction (the so-called "investment hunger disease") and the attendant bulging demand. Under the influence of the past ultra-left policy and the old economic management system, such inordinate investment and demand became an incurable disease. After the historic Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee in 1978, which set the task of redressing wrongs in all fields, China began readjusting its economy, which had long been seriously disproportionate, and which led to the deficit that climbed to 12 billion yuan in 1979,

and set out to reform its obsolete economic management system. After seven years of hard work, China eventually put its economy on the right course of sustained, steady and balanced development.

Finance is a mirror of the economic situation. After 1978, instead of decreasing, state revenue increased steadily and eventually a balance between revenue and expenditure was achieved. China's total product of society and state revenue grew at an average annual rate of 10.5 percent and 10.3 percent respectively during the Sixth Five-Year Plan period (1981-85).

The financial reform also helped boost economic development, increase revenue and reduce expenditure. The major aspect of the reform was to replace the system in which all profits were handed over to the state with one in which enterprises were taxed according to a specific tax schedule. After-tax profits now go to the enterprises and are used to develop production and to cover part of the collective welfare funds and individual bonuses. The reform has sparked the enterprises' enthusiasm for increasing production and practising economy. In 1985, budgetary state revenue amounted to 177 billion yuan, and non-budgetary revenue (including that of localities and enterprises) ran to more than 140 billion yuan. The two combined totalled 320 billion yuan, double that of 1980.

Of course, this growth did not come about smoothly. The main trouble still came from the excessive expansion of social demand, and the government had to impose frequent controls on expenditure. The recent inordinate expenditure occurred in the fourth quarter of 1984: The scale of capital construction was too

large, consumption funds increased too rapidly, the money supply was excessive, too much credit was extended and too much foreign exchange was spent, all of which prompted too much production and soaring prices. These factors had something to do, directly or indirectly, with inordinate investments in fixed assets. Among the total amount of fixed assets investment for 1985, two-thirds belonged to non-budgetary projects undertaken by localities and enterprises. This increased the difficulties in coping with the above problems.

Fortunately, the central authorities promptly discovered the overheated economy and took timely and effective measures to deal with it. Apart from employing economic, legal and administrative control measures, the State Council called four conferences of provincial governors from February to September 1985, and persuaded the local officials and enterprise managers to address the problem of overheating the economy. Premier Zhao said the fundamental way to overcome this problem was to curb the rapid growth of fixed assets investment and consumption funds. Later the government also slashed a number of construction projects that were not urgently needed and cut back on some unnecessary expenditures, thus heading state revenue and expenditure towards a balance. By the end of 1985 the industrial growth rate dropped to about 8 percent from the 23-percent level early in the year.

In order to consolidate and develop the results of the economic reform, the central government decided investment in fixed assets this year will basically stay at 1985's level, and industry will maintain a proper growth rate. The government will also



continue to stress better-quality products and economic benefits. In order to change the long distorted price system, last year the government took an important step forward in price reform, but the price hikes were too large (9 percent). No major adjustment will be made this year so as to allow enterprises and consumers to adapt themselves to the price change gradually. In correspondence with this, the state will adhere to the principle of maintaining a balance between revenue and expenditure, or a slight surplus, so as to create a more relaxed economic and social environment that will facilitate continued economic reforms.

Although we still cannot say the hidden peril of excessive expansion in demand has been eradicated, things today are, after all, quite different from those years when China experienced uncontrollable demand on three occasions, causing the leaders to react with impulsive measures.

Today Chinese leaders are more experienced in directing the economy; they will not be carried away by temporary success, nor will they flinch from difficulties they encounter during their advance. Whether in economic reforms or in economic construction, they will persist in following the principle of seeking truth from facts and making steady progress. This provides a guarantee for leading socialist modernization to a final success and is more encouraging than the elimination of the deficit itself.

## New Rule Zeros In on Nepotism

**Stern restrictions have been imposed on the conduct of leading officials in a flurry of hard-and-fast regulations.**

**W**ang Zhengming, an electric power administrator in Heilongjiang Province, thought he could get away scot-free when he pocketed a bribe of 10,000 yuan in return for selling cheaply 50 tons of state-owned rolled steel in 1984. However, with the nation tightening up on economic crimes, particularly those among corrupt Party and government functionaries, Wang was arrested along with several other ranking officials in the northeast Chinese province on charges ranging from power abuse to bribery.

It was not clear from the news reports how a high official like Wang would come to be involved in economic crime. Perhaps he started out as a revolutionary who stood the test of war only to succumb later to the temptation of a fast buck and a high life. But one thing is certain: many of the officials who scandalized the public by their criminal offenses found their way to leadership positions through nepotism—the practice of giving government sinecures on the basis of personal and family relationship.

Nepotism is often associated with “departmentalism” and the influence of the old clan system, and it manifests itself in many ways in the present-day Chinese bureaucracy. Some officials tend to judge and select prospective successors by personal likings, and they take care not to choose those who will harm their own interests. The other side of the coin of nepotism is “back-doorism,” when, for example, an official seeks to promote his own children or relatives to powerful positions.

Incidences of these irregular goings-on may be few, but they are highly detrimental to bureaucratic

morale and efficiency. If nepotists are to have their way, the government will be turned into a haven for timeservers and sycophants who can serve only to tarnish the Party's prestige and derail the nation's ambitious modernization programme. It was pointedly with this in mind that the Party Central Committee issued on January 28 a circular setting forth the framework for screening and promoting cadres. The rules set forth, if followed to the letter, will provide an organizational guarantee for smooth progress in the socialist modernization and reform in all fields of endeavour.

Among other things, the new rules call on leading officials to exemplarily observe Party discipline where the promotion of their own children, spouses or relatives to leading posts is concerned. Specifically, an official is forbidden to use any means to influence the personnel department to install his relatives in high positions. He must not help them get jobs through his own “pull,” by appealing to old acquaintances, colleagues, family members and so on. Still less should he support or encourage family members to take advantage of his position and power in search of high status jobs. He must also distance himself from any formal discussion of his children's or relatives' promotion to government positions and let the Party committee make its own decision.

Stricter rules have been set for top Party and government leaders concerning the future of their own children. According to the new rules, all suggestions to promote their children to leading positions by more than one grade at a time

## News in Brief

**A**uthorities in northern China plan to use the area's 500 underground hot springs to produce new supplies of non-staple foods, according to *Renmin Ribao* (People's Daily). These hot springs, with an average temperature of 70 degrees centigrade, can be used to heat greenhouses for winter vegetables, poultry farms and fish ponds, the newspaper said.

\* \* \*

**C**hina's private economy nearly doubled last year. Its output value totalled 85.9 billion yuan, 88.4 percent more than in 1984, and its retail sales reached 12.6 percent of the nation's total. According to government figures quoted by *Jingji Ribao* (Economic Daily), more than 17 million people work in the private sector, 34.8 percent more than in 1984. Leading the growth in numbers were private transportation and construction companies. Both were up by more than two-thirds.

\* \* \*

**C**hina expects to train 30,000 new auditors over the next five years to supervise China's fast-developing economy. The five-year programme will involve the establishment of a nationwide educational system of technical schools and colleges, and special training of the on-the-job auditors. *China Daily* reported.

at or above the county level must be submitted to the Central committee's Organization Department for deliberation, and no decision will be valid in this regard without the approval of the Central Committee's Secretariat.

The purpose of these rules is to make sure all Party and government posts are filled with people who can carry out Party policies in a creative way, and who are capable of breaking new ground in their work and willing to work doggedly for the well-being of the public. "Those indulging in empty talk, doing nothing practical, delighting in only putting out a good facade or those giving to deception must never be chosen," the circular said. Accordingly, an elaborate procedure for choosing leaders has been set forth.

First of all, candidates must be chosen at their own workplace, usually by secret ballot. Those who fail to get the majority vote will not be nominated.

Then the most popular candidates will be shortlisted and their colleagues canvassed for their opinions. Meanwhile, the personnel department will check into the nominees' work ability and personal qualities. The list is then sent to the Party committee for discussion.

Finally the list will be submitted to the higher leadership, where the organizational department will make further investigation before the Party committee discusses it and gives the endorsement.

The January 28 circular was but one in a flurry of hard-and-fast regulations worked out by the Secretariat of the Party Central Committee and issued recently in the form of circulars by either the Party Central Committee itself or the general offices of the Committee and the State Council. All are aimed at rectifying Party conduct and tightening up Party discipline by imposing sterner restrictions and higher requirements on the conduct of leading officials.

**Reception of Touring Officials Simplified.** Some leading cadres have long been accustomed to lavish receptions whenever they went on inspection or fact-finding tours—often with large entourages. Such receptions and send-offs are merely a waste of money, and have been criticized by the public.

A set of new rules issued on January 23 bans all organized welcomes and send-offs, and discourages local cadres from always putting in an appearance whenever a higher-level touring official stops over at a place. Touring cadres are forbidden to stay in luxury hotels and attend banquets and special shows in their honour. They must pay for their food and should not ask for or accept gifts.

**Unwarranted Foreign Trips Restricted.** It has not been uncommon these days to see government officials travelling abroad under the pretext of making fact-finding tours or promoting friendship. Fact-finding delegations are often comprised of incompetent non-professionals. Some members even go so far as to ask for money and gifts from their hosts. "These tours are harmful to China's open policy and can only damage the reputation of the Party and the nation," said a Party circular issued on January 28. To address the problems, the document stipulates that no provincial governors or State Council ministers, incumbent or retired, should visit a foreign country without the permission of the State Council, and that all such trips should have valid purposes and include professionally competent members.

**Junkets Banned.** Party and state functionaries are not allowed to make pleasure trips on the pretext of attending meetings or going on other official errands, nor are they permitted to go sightseeing at government expense. This rule, issued on February 1, was aimed

at preventing officials, particularly senior ones, from continuing to abuse their power by making unnecessary trips at public expense.

**Business Connections Proscribed.** A decision issued by the Party Central Committee and the State Council in 1984 banning Party and state organizations and officials from engaging in commercial activities or running enterprises has come up with tangible results but has fallen short of completely stamping out all the abuses in this regard. Some organizations and officials, turning a deaf ear to the decision, are still raking in profits from such irregular activities. Some leaders are occupying positions in business while performing duties as Party and state functionaries. Some people are making money by taking advantage of their relatives' positions and power. Many of those who have committed serious crimes in this regard, including certain leading officials, have not yet been brought to justice. All these abuses prompted the central authorities to issue a new document on February 4 restating the government's firm position in handling these problems. In strong terms, the document stated that on no account should Party and state department and officials engage in commercial activities. Party and government employees involved in business must choose between resigning their official posts and quitting their jobs in business. All those who have engaged in illegal business activities will be brought to legal account, and leading officials will face even sterner punishment.

## Calling for End to Hanoi's Hostilities

**C**hina recently called on Viet Nam to withdraw its troops from Kampuchea, restrain from

military provocations along its borders with China and to contribute to a fair resolution to the Kampuchean issue, the normalization of Sino-Vietnamese relations and peace and stability in southeast Asia.

The message came in a memorandum delivered on February 11 to Secretary-General Javier Peres de Cuellar by Li Luye, China's permanent representative to the United Nations. The document was made public the following day.

Since 1979, the memorandum said, "the Vietnamese aggressor troops have been engaged in wanton attacks and mopping-up operations against the patriotic resistance forces in Kampuchea, brutally massacring innocent Kampuchean civilians and committing heinous crimes against the Kampuchean people."

"Pushing a policy of neo-colonialism in Kampuchean areas under their occupation, the Vietnamese authorities are systematically emigrating large numbers of Vietnamese into Kampuchean territories in an attempt to Vietnamize Kampuchea," the document said.

The memo accused Viet Nam of not only invading and occupying Kampuchea and trying to control all of Indi-China, but also of intruding on Thai territory.

The memo noted that the UN General Assembly has adopted seven resolutions in succession calling for Vietnamese troops' withdrawal, but they were all rejected and vilified by the Vietnamese authorities.

The coalition government of Democratic Kampuchea and the ASEAN countries have put forward a number of proposals for bringing about a political settlement to the Kampuchean question. These, too, were rejected by Hanoi.

Recently, the memo says, the Vietnamese authorities have made it clear that they will not pull out their troops by 1990 if their

demands, which are unjustifiable, are not met, and that even after 1990, they will not necessarily withdraw their troops unless their puppet troops have become strong enough by then.

"All this fully shows that the negotiations, withdrawal of troops and political settlement as professed by the Vietnamese authorities are nothing but deceptive talk. "Their real intentions are none other than to perpetuate their occupation and control of Kampuchea."

After documenting the acts of aggression by Vietnamese troops against China in the past year and the current dry season, the memo notes that at present, the Vietnamese authorities are sending more troops to the Sino-Vietnamese border areas in an attempt to provoke new military conflicts.

"Numerous facts show that the tension along the Sino-Vietnamese border has been the sole making of the Vietnamese authorities," it says.

China, the memo continued, does not want any Vietnamese territory; it will never, however, allow Viet Nam to seize any Chinese territory.

"Driven beyond forbearance by Viet Nam's wilful armed provocations, the Chinese frontier guards are fully justified in exercising their sacred right by striking back with force, which are acts performed entirely in self-defence under compelling circumstances," the memorandum says.

## Officials Collared In Smuggling Scam

**F**our officials were recently arrested in connection with a scandal in which several government officials are believed to have collaborated in smuggling into China 180,000 colour TVs worth a total of US\$41 million.

The smuggling, which made the front page of *Renmin Ribao* (People's Daily), began in December 1984 a few days after the CPC Central Committee and the State Council issued new rules banning government employees from engaging in business transactions. "The Party's resolution in December 1984 which was thought to be drafted in strict terms, was not quite as strictly implemented, it turns out," said a *Renmin Ribao* commentator.

According to the Communist Party Central Discipline Inspection Commission, which has been investigating the case together with judicial departments, four officials were arrested: Zhu Hancheng, deputy general manager of the Guangyu Co.; Li Hanwen, general manager of the Hainan Trust Corp.; Hou Ruilin, a factory director; and Cheng Zhi, deputy manager of a company run by the Ministry of the Electronics Industry.

Ma Chunsheng, deputy director of the Shijiazhuang Branch of the Bank of China is also in prison awaiting trial for his participation in the crime, a February 6 report in *Renmin Ribao* said.

Former Astronautics Minister Zhang Jun and present Vice-Minister Cheng Lianchang, who gave the go-ahead to the illegal transaction, have been given serious disciplinary warnings.

The *Renmin Ribao* commentator described the case as being "unprecedented in the history of the People's Republic, in that it involved so many senior and middle-level officials."

"Their unbridled lawless activities, which impinges on state interests, seriously obstructed the progress of economic reform, the implementation of the country's open policy and the modernization programme," he said.

According to the CPC Discipline Inspection Commission, the case involved various state departments on Hainan Island in Guangzhou Province, including a company and a factory attached

to the Ministry of the Electronics Industry, the Foreign Economic Relations Committee of the Hainan Administrative Region and the Hainan International Trust and Investment Corp. The Shijiazhuang Branch of the Bank of China in Hebei Province also had a finger in the pie.

Wang Daoli, general manager of the Guangyu Co. and also director of the general office of the Ministry of the Astronautics Industry, has been placed on probation within the Party (as a Party disciplinary measure), and Zhou Wensheng, a bureau chief of the Ministry of the Electronics Industry has been dismissed from office.

Others involved in the case will also be punished by disciplinary measures, said the commission. The colour TV sets will be confiscated, it said.

The illegal deal was kicked off in 1984 by the Beijing-based Guangyu Industrial and Trade Co. which is not authorized to engage in foreign trade or foreign currency transactions.

The Guangyu Co. signed a contract with a French company in December 1984, to import unassembled 20-inch colour televisions with a loan of US\$46.8 million in foreign currency granted by the Shijiazhuang Branch of the Bank of China, which, in return, earned 15 million yuan in the form of "gratitude fees" or "formality fees." Officials of the company then illegally bought an import certificate for 18 million yuan and shipped in the components via Hainan.

The case was brought to light in March 1985 when the TV parts began to arrive at Haikou Port on Hainan, and local customs officers found the certificate was invalid.

In response to disclosures of the scandal, the central authorities once again made public a regulation forbidding Party and government organizations and officials from carrying out business activities and warned them not to break the law and Party

discipline to seek personal benefits.

*Renmin Ribao* laid part of the blame for the case on bureaucratic sloppiness and to senior officials who are ignorant of economic regulations. In a vivid way, the case once again showed the nation's determination to eliminate corruption and improve its work, the commentator said.

## Reviving Waterway Freight Transport

**C**hina's inland waterways are being dredged and repaired after years of neglect.

Highways and railways built since the late 1950s have replaced water routes as the main means of freight transport over the last 30 years. Previously much domestic cargo was moved via river and lake navigation.

The rural economic boom over the past few years has made for brisker commodity circulation and land transport can no longer keep up with the growing demand for movement of cargo.

To ease the transport crunch, a number of local governments have tackled the problem of improving the inland waterways.

Zhejiang Province invested 70 million yuan in construction of communication systems this year and over half of this sum went to upgrading navigation facilities.

Shaanxi Province will spend 20 million yuan this year to improve navigation of the Yellow and Hanshui Rivers.

Over the next five years, Hubei Province will reopen 13 locks in the Yangtze River which are now impeding navigation.

According to "Economic Daily," China had 19,000 kilometers of inland waterways in use at the end of 1985, up a thousand kilometers from the year before.

Goods transported via water last year amounted to 85.5 billion ton-kilometers, up 12 percent over 1984. The growth rate for freight on the waterways surpass-



sed that for highways and railways.

## Can City Cyclists Bring Kids Along?

In the last few years, the governments of Nanjing, Chengdu and Shanghai have allowed parents to take their children to kindergarten by bicycles to avoid injuries in the overcrowded buses, according to a recent article in the newspaper *Chinese Women*. The rules, which run against the country's traffic regulations—two people on bicycle is not allowed—have left strong repercussions in their wake.

The women's paper, which is the only one of its kind in China, said there was a strain in the mass transit systems in Nanjing, Chengdu, Shanghai and other big cities, resulting in extremely overcrowded buses. For example, the population in Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province, is nearly 4 million, but there are only 20 bus or trolley-bus routes. During rush hour, the children who had to go to kindergarten with their parents by bus were often injured and cried, and their shoes or caps were often lost when they pressed their way off the bus.

All this prompted the three city governments to give parents the go-ahead to take their children to kindergartens by bike—on condition that the cyclist is not allowed to ride with a child on the main streets, that the parents must have a carriage for their child attached to the bicycle, and that the child can only sit at the front of the bicycle.

Reports indicate these policies have done a great deal of good to parents and their children in these cities. Zhu Lan, a 28-year-old worker in a Nanjing factory, said it had taken 40 minutes for her to take her three-year-old son to the nursery by bus. But now she saves 20 minutes by cycling, and she is not concerned about being late to work herself.

The policy has also in part

relaxed the strain of public transportation. According to statistics, there are more than 1 million bicycles in each of the three cities. If one percent of the parents sent their children to kindergartens by bicycle every day, 10,000 adults and the same number of children in each city would be free of overloaded buses.

Almost no traffic accidents have occurred since the new traffic policies were implemented. Among nearly 100 serious traffic accidents in Nanjing from early 1985 to October, only one involved a bicyclist and a child. It was determined, however, that the violator was the other cyclist.

Many readers of the article in *Chinese Women* have been encouraged by the reports of fewer accidents and better transportation. Many parents have written to the paper to complain about their riding problems in an effort to raise public pressure that could eventually persuade governments of other big cities to adopt the cycling policy.

A father of one five-year-old child from Beijing wrote to say that there were more than 4,550 lanes in his city. If the municipal government would allow parents to take their children to kindergartens by bike across the lanes, it would not only ensure the children's safety, but also save more time for getting to and from workplace and home in the evenings.

Whether bicyclists can see their dream come true is still open to question. The new traffic policy is, after all an expedient measure, according to *Chinese Women*, because bicycles serve as the main means of transportation only when public transport runs short of the public demand. If China's cities had better mass transit systems, parents and their children would prefer to go by bus rather than by bicycle. Therefore, the only solution is to step up the country's public transportation services, the paper said.

by Cui Lili

## China & the World

**China Calls for Immediate Ceasefire Between Iran and Iraq.** A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman on February 14 called on Iran and Iraq set into place an immediate ceasefire and settle their differences and disputes through peaceful consultations. "Recently, there has been a further escalation of the war between Iran and Iraq, which has caused great loss of life and property to the peoples of these two countries, and has posed a serious threat to peace and stability in the Gulf region. We are deeply disturbed and concerned about this," the spokesman said.

**Singapore Trip.** Chinese State Councillor Gu Mu left Beijing by air on February 14 to pay a working visit to Singapore. The State Councillor is expected to discuss matters concerning co-operation between China and Singapore in the fields of tourism and civil aviation, and study Singapore's economic construction.

**Outside Experts Aid Shenzhen.** There are 2,300 specialists from abroad, Hongkong and Macao now working in the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone, according to a local trade union official. Some 300 of them are from other countries, and those from Hongkong and Macao are mostly administrative personnel or skilled workers.

HAITI

## Dictator Duvalier Overthrown

*Although a new government has been formed in Haiti after former President-for-life Jean-Claude Duvalier fled the country on February 7, the political situation there has not yet stabilized.*

A new government in Haiti was formed on February 8 after the ruling National Council took power when dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier fled to France on February 7 amid nationwide anti-government protests. The government, headed by Henri Namphy, comprises 13 ministers and six secretaries of state, of which four are National Council members. Namphy, 52, headed the Haitian army as Chief of Staff and served in the army for 32 years.

Haiti, a small French-speaking country in the Caribbean, has a population of more than 6 million. The Haitian people have had a long history of resistance to oppression. After a 13-year struggle against French colonialism, the Haitian people finally won independence in 1804 and formed the first republic of black people in the world. In 1957 Francois Duvalier gained control of Haiti. When Francois died in 1971, his son, 19-year-old Duvalier succeeded his rule and appointed himself president-for-life. He continued to use the "Tonton Macoutes," the dreaded secret police organization, to suppress the people and opposition factions. Foreign and internal pressure forced Duvalier to lighten slightly the policy of suppression that characterized his father's rule, but he did not reduce his control of the country. According to incomplete statistics, more than 300,000 people have been killed or tortured in the last two decades.

Economically, Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere. Per capita annual income is less than US\$300, but in reality nearly half

of the national income is controlled by less than one percent of the population. In recent years in particular, Haiti's economy has deteriorated, and half the urban population is unemployed. The situation of the large rural population is even worse. A large number of the poor has fled the poverty-stricken country; 400,000 Haitians are living in their neighbouring country, the Dominican Republic.

Anti-government protests began on November 27 when security forces shot and killed three students demonstrating in Gonaives, about 160 kilometres north of Port-au-Prince, capital of Haiti. Protests then erupted in other provincial cities across this Caribbean island, calling for an end to food and gasoline shortages and to the Duvalier family's 28-year rule. In order to control the situation, Duvalier imposed a 30-day state of siege, which in turn led to the breakout of new anti-government demonstrations in some Haitian cities. The demonstrators shouted "Down with Duvalier" and "Justice, Freedom." Seeing that the unrest had got out of hand, Duvalier fled to France.

On February 7 more than 50,000 people took to the streets of Port-au-Prince, hailing the downfall of the Duvalier family, shouting "The tiger is gone" and "Long live freedom." Meanwhile, Haitians who had gone into exile abroad during the reign of the Duvalier family held celebrations in Miami, Florida of the United States, Mexico and other places to hail the victory of Duvalier's overthrow.

Duvalier's flight from Haiti has also sparked off a strong wave of

response in Latin America. In a statement on February 8 Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi expressed hope that a developmental process will now be ushered in which will lead Haiti towards freedom, justice and democracy. He said the end of the rule by the Duvalier family "should be celebrated with cheers by the whole world, especially by democratic countries in Latin America." He pledged his country's co-operation with Haiti in its quest for democracy and pluralism.

Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez expressed the hope that Haiti would join the ranks of countries in which governments are popularly elected and human rights respected.

Although Duvalier is now in exile in France and a new government in Haiti has been formed, Haitian opposition leaders suspect that some members of the new government may have had ties with the former president. They have made it clear that they will tolerate no attempts to establish a Duvalier-like regime. It is reported that an unsigned document originating in Gonaives put 25 "people's demands" to the government. It called for the extradition of Duvalier, the removal from the National Council of two of its six members, Alix Cineas and Prosper Avril, who were suspected of being allies of the Duvalier family, the trial of Tonton Macoutes members, and the arrest of anyone who embezzled public funds during the 28-year-long Duvalier dynasty.

The document also urged the government to raise wages of the low-paid class, to restore trade unions and multi-party politics, and to form an entirely new cabinet "representing the nation." However, such reforms need time to be implemented. It is clear the new Haitian leaders have a long road ahead of them if they wish to realize the democratic process.

by Chang Qing

# US and Seoul Stage Military Exercises

*US and South Korean military exercises that started on February 10 will unquestionably harm the fragile state of detente which the two sides of Korea have slowly achieved through painstaking dialogue.*

Last year's tiny beacon of hope for peace on the Korean Peninsula was over-shadowed in the glare of the January 18 announcement that the United States and South Korean troops would hold joint military exercises dubbed "Team Spirit 86" beginning on February 10.

The chilling announcement not only negated the progress of the last year, but it also renewed the concerns of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the international community.

In recent years the Korean Peninsula has seen speeding up steps in the peace process.

In January of 1984 North Korea issued a major proposal for tripartite talks between North Korea, the United States and South Korea.

In September of the same year South Korea suffered calamitous floods. Soon after this North Korea decided to provide a large quantity of grain, cloth and medicine in humanitarian aid to the disaster victims. This represented the first exchange of goods after North and South Korea were separated 40 years ago.

Last year the two sides held four rounds of economic talks, three rounds of Red Cross talks and two preparatory meetings for parliamentary talks which were characterized by the harmonious atmosphere in which they were engaged.

In September of last year the two sides exchanged performing arts troupes and visits of delegations of members of divided families. This represented a breakthrough and encouragement

to the people on both sides of the 38th Parallel demarcation line.

According to the plan agreed by the two sides, the sixth round of economic talks, the third preparatory meeting for the national assembly conference and 11th round of Red Cross talks were to be held in January and February this year. To create a favourable environment for these talks, the foreign ministry of the DPRK on January 10 announced a suspension of major military exercises starting from February 1. The ministry called upon the US-South Korean side to reciprocate its goodwill gesture.

To the disappointment of Korean people and peace-loving people of the world, however, the US-South Korean side announced afterwards that it would go ahead with its "Team Spirit 86" joint military exercises involving more than 200,000 troops.

Expressing displeasure at US-South Korean lack of historical responsibility and sincerity for peace, the DPRK announced a postponement of talks.

The United States and South Korea have claimed that "Team Spirit 86" merely follows "convention" and is aimed at "self-defence."

Anyone watching the situation on the peninsula, however, knows that since 1976, the scale of annual US-South Korean military exercises has been growing, troops involved have increased from the original 90,000 to this year's 200,000, and the weapons and equipment used have been increasingly upgraded.

Can the escalating nature of these military exercises be dismiss-

sed as "convention?" And if this "convention" is continued, can there ever be peace and national reunification?

The "self-defence" claim is even less plausible. First, nobody can seriously believe that the DPRK troops are preparing to attack the beaches of Hawaii.

Second, the DPRK government has frequently reiterated it has no intention of "driving southward," as is alleged by the South Korean authorities. On the contrary, the DPRK has initiated a number of proposals for national reconciliation and has taken several steps to bring about early national reunification and peace on the peninsula.

Obviously, the South Korean and US claim that they are following "convention" is nothing more than a blatant excuse to flaunt their ever-upgraded military muscle. And their insistence that "Team Spirit 86" is being conducted merely to promote "self-defence" is an attempt to camouflage their military aggressive posture.

The past 40 years have made it clear that military buildups cannot solve the Korean problem. Rather, they aggravate tension on the Peninsula and endanger peace in Asia and the rest of the world. The United States and South Korea should face reality, and not engage in activities in violation of the will of the Korean people.

by Guo Quanyou

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*Coming!*

**Issue No. 9 carries articles on Chinese women.**

■ Advances Amidst Pitfalls

■ Writers of Three Generations

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OPEC

## Oil Prices Tumble Drastically

*The sharp drop in oil prices benefits oil importers and harms producers and exporters.*

**W**orld oil prices have been dropping since the early part of this year. On January 20 the price of Britain's North Sea standard light oil slumped to US\$19.5 a barrel from US\$30.5 a barrel last November. It fell further to US\$16.9 a barrel on February 3. Two days before, the price of sulphur-bearing oil of Texas experienced a fall to US\$18.83 a barrel on the New York market, and Mexico, whose oil recently suffered two successive price drops, has posted a minimum price of US\$16.25 a barrel for its heavy oil. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which had earlier given up its official pricing policy and linked prices to world oil market demand, has also borne the brunt of declines. According to some oil experts, these harrowing price drops will continue and are expected to reach a low of US\$15 a barrel.

The reasons for the oil price plummeting are manifold. For one thing, oil supply has exceeded demand on the world oil market since early 1981. The energy crisis of 1973 forced many countries to readjust their policies on oil production and consumption, which resulted in radical changes in the world structure of oil supply and demand. The oil price rise in the early 70s encouraged many countries to join in the race to locate and exploit oil reserves and more than two-thirds of the non-OPEC member countries increased their oil output in 1983.

However, the expanded supply was greeted by a dwindling demand, as a result of increased use worldwide of alternative energy sources including coal, natural gas and nuclear energy, as well as the implementation of

energy conservation. Within the past 10 years, the output of natural gas in the world has increased by 24 percent and coal by 27 percent. The proportion of oil in the world energy structure has correspondingly reduced with the growth in the use of non-oil energy. Take the example of Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Oil consumption accounted for half of OECD's overall energy consumption in 1979, but dropped to 40 percent in 1985. The organization cut its oil demand by 700,000 barrels each day in the first three quarters of last year and 200,000 barrels in the last quarter.

Another reason for the current oil fall is caused by the price cuts made by many oil producers, especially Britain. In February 1983, Britain took the lead in the competition with OPEC over the oil market by reducing the price of its North Sea oil. As a result, half of its output of 2.56 million barrels each day went to several futures markets which traditionally had been controlled by OPEC and now had to be given up because of oil production cutbacks. In the spot markets where more than a half of the world oil is sold and bought, North Sea oil also took control of prices. Britain's action, together with similar moves made by Norway, the Soviet Union and other countries, led to the important policy change of OPEC in 1985: The organization gave up its strategy of stabilizing prices by reducing output in order to secure and safeguard its fair share in the world oil market.

To maintain oil profits, Saudi Arabia gave up its standard oil futures price for the first time in September 1985 and signed the first net returned value contracts

with three companies of the United States, selling about 50 million barrels of crude oil at a reduced price. The country made similar contracts with other Western oil corporations and Japan. The crude oil price of North Sea tumbled drastically as a result.

The drop in prices will have a severe impact on the world economy. It is reported that Japan, which must import all its oil, has bought a large quantity of oil at a cheap price; most European Economic Community members also have profited from the current oil price slump. The United States, as an oil producer and importer, is both concerned and pleased by the current situation. The Soviet Union, the largest oil producer and exporter in the world, will suffer heavy loss of foreign exchange.

The sharp oil price drop is unquestionably a heavy blow on oil producers in the third world. In Mexico, the world's fourth-ranked oil producer, oil exports make up two-thirds of the country's overall export earnings and account for half of the government revenue. With the country's foreign debt already amounting to US\$96 billion, Mexico can't afford to suffer foreign exchange loss. Yet, it will lose at least US\$4 billion if, say, the price of a barrel of oil is maintained at US\$20.

The price war with Britain and OPEC on opposing sides affects both participants. North Sea oil accounts for 6 percent of Britain's total production value and provides 8 percent of the country's government revenue. A British energy and economic expert recently pointed out that the present price level is likely to have a severe impact on national revenue. The country's tax on North Sea oil will decline from US\$15.8 billion to US\$9.6 billion, he predicted. The British government also admits to the public it will have to cancel its promise of a tax cut if oil prices continue to plummet.

About 70-95 percent of OPEC foreign exchange comes from oil exports. A drop in the oil price of one dollar would represent a loss of US\$6 billion for the organization's 13 member states each year, and they would suffer a loss of US\$50 billion each year if, for example, a barrel is priced at US\$20. For the debt-laden OPEC member countries including Indonesia, Venezuela, Ecuador and Nigeria, whose total foreign debts add up to more than US\$90 billion, the enormous loss of foreign exchange would be intolerable. Moreover, because (except those countries along the Persian Gulf,) most OPEC members do not boast abundant oil reserves, the organization will find it hard to insist in the long run on a policy of high production and low price.

It is apparent to world oil producers that stabilizing prices on the oil market is in their common interest and imperative to the smooth development of the world economy. At present, dialogue between OPEC and non-OPEC member countries is underway. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher expressed her readiness to discuss the problem with OPEC despite the British government's limited power to regulate the production of British oil companies.

Fortunately, there are signs indicating that world oil producers are now willing to compromise on their pricing policy differences, restricting oil price changes within certain limits. It is expected that oil prices will eventually settle at US\$20 a barrel.

by Jiang Hong

budget deficit in the year of 1985-86 has been estimated to be more than US\$2.1 billion. The growth rate of the gross domestic product went down from 7 percent in 1983 to 0.15 percent in 1984. The drain of capital from the country also increased from US\$6.16 billion in 1983 to US\$11.12 billion in 1984. Domestic deposits declined from US\$2.5 billion in 1983 to US\$1.9 billion by the end of October 1984.

The Kuwaiti government has fully recognized the fragility of its single-product economy and adopted some measures to offset its vulnerability. One of the measures has been to use oil revenues to develop a diversified economy. Since the 1960s the government has successively established oil refineries and liquefied natural gas, sea water desalination, fertilizer, and cement plants. The government also has encouraged the development of desert agriculture and experiments in hydroponics. However, due to the country's harsh natural conditions and limited soil, Kuwait still finds it necessary to import grain and many industrial products.

Another measure adopted by the Kuwaiti government is to invest oil revenues in foreign countries. It is estimated that the amount of such investment is as high as US\$100 billion. Just the interest amounts to at least US\$5-6 billion each year, equal to half the national budget. Part of the money used for foreign investment comes from the "Reserve Fund for Future Generations." In accordance with state law, the government gives 10 percent of its national income to the fund, and its capital and interest cannot be used until the next century.

Of course, there is always some risk in making foreign investments. But considering the special circumstances of Kuwait, such investments are still a relatively safe hedge against future economic uncertainties.

by Ren Yan

## KUWAIT

### Diversification Measures Adopted

*The decline of oil production and oil prices on the world market has negatively affected the oil kingdom of Kuwait, and its government has adopted measures to overcome the nation's economic vulnerability.*

**K**uwait, a desert country with a territory of only about 17,000 square kilometres, has become a rich and powerful nation due to its vast reserves of oil. Oil deposits in the country were first discovered accidentally in 1934 when new wells were sunk in a search for fresh water. Kuwait's oil deposits have been estimated at about 64.4 billion barrels. This amount is so huge that the country's daily oil output could remain at 1 million barrels for 150 years.

Kuwait's yearly oil production of more than 280 million barrels provides revenues of about US\$9 billion. During the height of Kuwait's oil production, output amounted to more than 1.1 billion barrels, earning revenues of US\$17 billion. At present, the per-capita income of Kuwait is more than US\$20,000, one of the

highest in the world. Furthermore, the Kuwaiti people enjoy a generous welfare programme subsidized by the government, including free medical care, free education, and no taxes.

However, even as oil has made the small desert nation wealthy, it has given rise to a particularly vulnerable single-product economy. This oil-based economy is fragile, not only because it relies on a non-renewable resource, but also because the oil revenues are subject to fluctuating conditions in the world market. Indeed, during the past few years, the demand for oil on the world market has declined, and the Kuwaiti government has had to correspondingly decrease its oil production output.

Since 1982 the public finances of the Kuwaiti government have been continuously in red. The

# Shenzhen SEZ Sees Dramatic Changes

*Shenzhen, China's first and largest special economic zone, began experimental operation in 1980. As an open window to foreign investment, the zone's development has always received the attention of foreign businessmen and world economists. "Beijing Review" has frequently reported on the zone's development in the past. This article by Liang Xiang, secretary of the Shenzhen municipal committee of the Chinese Communist Party, gives a brief account of the zone's evolution in the past five years and may help to widen the readers' perspective on China's economic zones.*

by Liang Xiang



The Shenzhen Special Economic Zone, one of China's "testing grounds" for opening windows to the world economy, was established in August 1980 with the approval of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. In the initial stage after its establishment, because of the influence of the models of foreign "export products processing zone" and "free trade zone," Shenzhen's economic links with enterprises in the hinterland were neglected. The special zone's system also followed the economic pattern of the hinterland. Acting upon a directive of the Party Central Committee after 1981, the local authorities have conducted reforms of the special zone's

economic structure and have adopted special policies, thus speeding up the development of the special zone.

## Achievements and Problems

With regard to the operation of special economic zones in socialist China, there is no precedent to go by. We have begun by laying the groundwork in Shenzhen over the past five years or so.

**Investment environment.** Originally a desolate, small border town in China's Guangdong Province, Shenzhen's infrastructure facilities, especially its energy, telecommunications and transportation industries, were very backward. So in the past few years, the local authorities have concentrated their human, financial and material resources on the construction of the Luohu and Shangbu urban districts covering an area of 36 square kilometres; building and expanding more than 80 urban roads of 100 kilometres; and setting up the Shekou, Shangbu and Bagualing industrial districts that have begun to take shape. In addition, the construction of four other industrial districts is in full swing. A batch of cultural, tourist and commercial service facilities, municipal projects and workers' dorms have also been put up. At the same time, energy supply, transportation and

telecommunication services have improved. One of these improvements was the 700,000-kw Shajiao thermal power plant built with the aid of foreign capital, its first 350,000-kw generating unit will begin operation next year. Among other projects are a helicopter airport; the construction of four harbours; a water and land transportation network; and a 11,000-channel programme-controlled telephone exchange system recently put into service, making it possible to directly dial Hongkong and a dozen cities in China's hinterland.

Through several years of hard work, Shenzhen has begun to create a favourable investment environment to attract foreign capital.

Capital construction conducted over the past few years has involved a cumulative investment of about 6 billion yuan and projects that have been completed cover an area of about 8.08 million square metres of floor space. The sources of funds were as follows:

Foreign capital accounts for about 20 percent;

Funds raised by Shenzhen itself make up 27 percent;

Investment in Shenzhen enter-

prises made by central ministries and the nation's provinces and cities constitutes 12 percent;

Bank loans represent 30 percent;

State investment comprises about 3 percent; and others (including nuclear power stations) take up about 8 percent.

In addition, Shenzhen authorities have enacted about a dozen economic laws and regulations and a number of others have been submitted to the higher authorities for examination and approval.

**Importing foreign funds and advanced technology.** Business people from 17 countries and regions have come to Shenzhen to check into the possibilities of investing in enterprises. By October 1985, more than 4,300 agreements on construction projects had been signed with foreign businessmen, involving a total investment of US\$3.1 billion, US\$840 million of which had been put to use, accounting for one-seventh of the nation's gross direct foreign investment. The city imported more than 30,000 pieces of equipment, about 40 percent of which were comparatively advanced. These included plastic-spraying machines, electronic component automatic inserting machines, hollow glass production line, plastic-woven bag production line, precision mould processing equipment, micro-computer production equipment, large injection plastic equipment, hard plastic processing equipment and satellite television ground receiving equipment. These technology and equipment are up to advanced international levels and some of them have filled in China's gaps in these fields.

With the introduction of foreign funds and technology, a number of foreign-owned enterprises, Chinese-foreign joint ventures and co-operative enterprises have been set up in the special economic zone. More than 85 percent of these businesses have turned out profits, and more than 400

varieties of their products have entered the international market.

The Shenzhen authorities have also carried out economic co-operation with the other departments and enterprises in the hinterland in order to solve the zone's shortage of funds, talent and resources. The city currently has established links with 969 enterprises throughout China, including 338 enterprises operating under 25 ministries of the State Council, 395 enterprises under 27 of the nation's provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions and 236 enterprises under other areas and cities. These enterprises have generally brought in good economic results, earning a total of around 500 million yuan in 1984.

**Comprehensive economic growth.** Compared with 1979, the zone's industrial enterprises have increased in number from 224 to the current 750; the number of workers and staff members has increased from more than 8,700 people to more than 60,000 people; and total industrial output value rose from 60 million yuan to 1.8 billion yuan in 1984 — 30 times greater than that of 1979. Total

industrial output value in 1985 was estimated at 2.4 billion yuan, an increase of 33 percent over 1984.

The structure of industry in Shenzhen has undergone remarkable changes in the last several years. Formerly, the zone mainly processed materials from outside sources, but now it produces most of its own products, totalling more than 800 varieties. The zone is now operating industries in electronics, machinery, pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals, building materials, food processing and textiles. They are gradually developing from labour-intensive industries into ones that are based on state-of-the-art technology. Of the industrial projects completed in 1984, 11 percent belonged to these technology-intensive industries and the figure further increased in 1985. At the same time, the zone also began to orient the sales of its products abroad. The total sales of industrial goods in 1984 amounted to 1.1 billion yuan, 33 percent of which was exported. If import substitution was included, then the amount of goods sold abroad accounted for 48 percent. In the first nine months of 1985, the zone sold 1.3 billion yuan worth of

A commercial district.

XUE CHAO

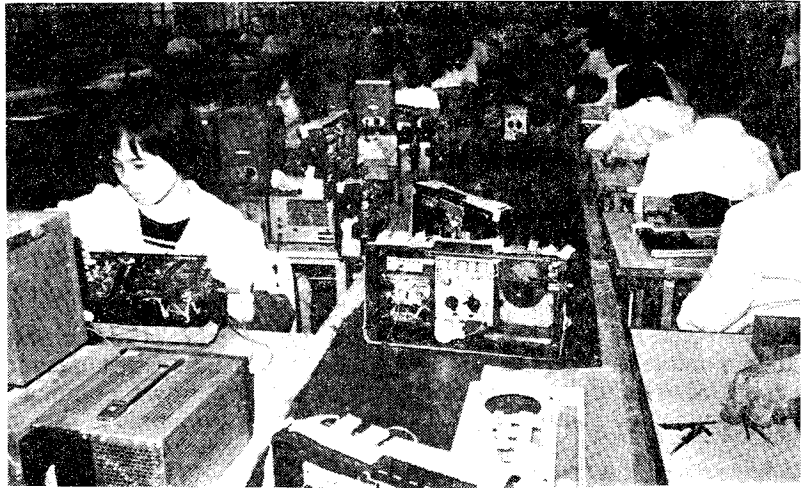


industrial goods, 43 percent of which was sold abroad, and the figure was 57 percent if import substitution was included.

Shenzhen's agriculture is developing in the direction of commercial, specialized and technological farming. In order to keep up with the pace, a large production centre has been established for agriculture. Currently, the city's annual animal and fresh produce includes 10 million chickens; 300,000 hogs; 20,000 tons of milk; 20,000 tons of fresh-water fish; and 180,000 tons of vegetables.

Shenzhen also has recorded fairly large advances in commerce, foreign trade, communications, finance, tourism, catering service, culture, public health and education. In 1984 the city's GNP amounted to 2.3 billion yuan, averaging 3,700 yuan per capita; per-capita national income exceeded US\$1,000 in the same year. Compared with 1980, its GNP for 1985 was estimated to reach 2.9 billion yuan, a 7.4 times rise; its commodity retail sales reached 2.3 billion yuan, 11 times higher; its revenue hit 800 million yuan, 14 times greater; the city's foreign exchange earnings ran to US\$660 million. From January to October last year, the city had signed with foreign businesses 879 contracts valued at US\$800 million, US\$240 million of which had been put to use, increasing 9.3 percent, 69.9 percent and 80.7 percent respectively over the same period of 1984. So there is no doubt that a sustained, stable and all-round economic growth has taken hold of the special zone.

**Improved living standards.** In 1984, the farmers' annual income in Shenzhen averaged 1,700 yuan, and 80 percent of those farmers had built new houses. The monthly wages of factory and company employees also increased, their monthly wages now averaging 200 yuan — higher than most of those earned by workers in other parts of China, but lower



KUE CHAO

**A workshop at the Overseas Chinese Electronic Factory, a joint venture run with Hongkong investors.**

than those in Hongkong. Wage hikes, however, were lower than that of labour productivity.

With better living standards and material well-being, the local people have also begun to enjoy a richer cultural life. A halt has been put to the exodus to Hongkong, which occurred before the establishment of the special zone, and now more than 1,000 people have returned to settle down in Shenzhen.

Despite the achievements mentioned above, there exist many problems in the special zone.

To begin with, the products turned out by Shenzhen enterprises are not competitive enough on the international market, resulting in a foreign exchange imbalance within the industries themselves (although foreign exchange is balanced and in surplus when the city is considered as a whole).

To date, enterprise management has failed to keep pace with the rapidly developing economic

zone. Poor and confusing management and operation of some enterprises has resulted in low financial returns. Because everything has moved at breakneck speed in the zone, economic legislation and regulations have not been fully enacted and there exist many legal loopholes. Therefore, economic crime is on the rise.

Reform is not conducted in a co-ordinate way. The overall economic control system has not been completely established and the management system is not suited to the needs of the development of an outward-oriented economy.

There are still many weak links in the development of socialist culture and ethics. Malpractice is not uncommon among cadres who abuse their power to seek personal gain.

Yet another dilemma facing the economic zone is an unequivocal lack of talent. The professional level of cadres, workers and staff members remains to be improved.

## Functions of the Special Zone

**C**oastal belts urged to open up. As one of China's testing grounds for opening to the world, the Shenzhen Special Economic

Zone, set up earlier than the other three, has acquired some experience.

During his inspection tour of



the zone in January 1984, Deng Xiaoping said, "The development of Shenzhen and its experience prove that our policy for setting up the special economic zones is correct." Soon afterwards, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China decided to open 14 more coastal cities and Hainan Island, and later to open the Zhujiang (Pearl) and Changjiang (Yangtze) River Deltas and the Xiamen-Zhangzhou-Quanzhou delta areas in southern Fujian as the open economic coastal areas. This network of open coastal cities from Dalian in the north to Beihai in the south has begun to take shape. Through these special zones and coastal cities, we have imported advanced technology and scientific management expertise, which eventually will promote economic and technological development in the hinterland.

**Providing experience for reform in the hinterland.** Since the beginning of 1981, Shenzhen has reformed its planning and capital construction management systems, its commercial, financial, price and wage systems as well as cadre and personnel system. It is believed that the experience gained from these reforms will serve as good examples for the hinterland. These experiences include the replacement of investment with bank loans in the zone's infrastructural construction; a public bidding system adopted for capital construction projects; a contract system introduced for the employment of workers, and cadres employed through public ads or election for a term of office.

About 30,000 cadres and technicians from central, provincial and municipal units stationed in Shenzhen, and those from units in the hinterland that have links with Shenzhen, have been able to grow professionally and then take back their experiences to apply them in their own work units.

The special zone has also offered about 150 courses dealing with the import of foreign investment and technology, international finance, Hongkong and Macao laws, foreign trade and enterprise management. More than 6,000 part-time students from the various ministries of the State Council, the provinces and municipalities are enrolled in these classes.

**The Zone's impact on Hongkong and Taiwan.** The development of the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone has enabled the Hongkong compatriots to see the future of Hongkong after the resumption of China's sovereignty over the region in 1997. The Hongkong people said that since capitalist enterprises are allowed to exist in Shenzhen, they have no need to worry about the future of Hongkong. Taiwan compatriots also follow Shenzhen's development with interest. Through the window of the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone, Taiwan people have observed China's policy of opening to the world. After her visit to the special zone, a Taiwanese correspondent said with emotion, "How eagerly I want to see an early reunification of Taiwan with the mainland." She said the existence and development of the economic zone had given her "confidence in the reunification of the motherland."

During his visit to Shenzhen, Hongkong Governor Edward

Youde said the zone was very important both to China and to Hongkong while Hongkong's prosperity played a significant role in promoting the development of the one, which, in turn, was of special importance to Hongkong.

**Foreigners' comments.** From 1980 to October 1985, government and party delegations from more than 50 countries and about 8,000 experts, scholars and correspondents in 1,200 groups visited the special zone, 30 groups of whom were composed of state leaders at or above the level of vice-premiers and deputy speakers. US Vice-President George Bush, during a visit last fall, said the economic zone had proven that it was expanding and growing stronger, and is expected to have greater development and that the United States would further invest in the area. Norwegian Prime Minister Kave Willoch said that the special economic zone was like a catalyst that would stimulate China's economic development. First Vice-Chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers Ivan Arkhipov said that after his visit in Shenzhen, he realized the concept of the special zone was very good for China. Romanian Ambassador to China Florea Dumitrescu said the policy of opening to the world was of significance not only to the special zone, but also was one of far-reaching significance to China, to Romania and other socialist countries.

## Upholding the Socialist Road

**A**s the special economic zone continues to import foreign capital and makes frequent contact with capitalist countries, decadent bourgeois ideology and lifestyles inevitably will creep in. Under such a special and complex environment, there have been doubts about whether the zone could continue to walk the socialist road. But facts have

indicated that the people of Shenzhen have maintained their socialist orientation.

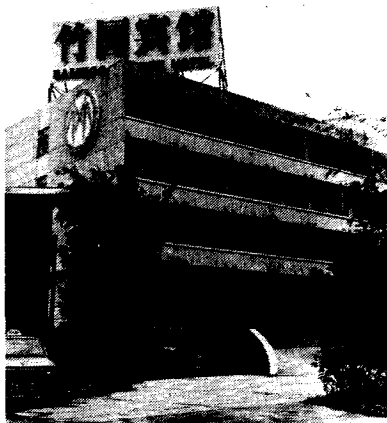
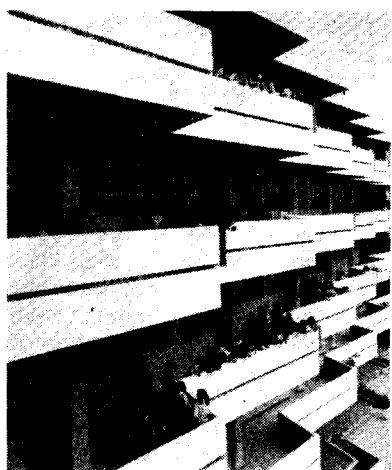
It must be made clear that Shenzhen is a special economic zone, not a special political zone, and therefore practises all of China's laws and statutes. The zone's political power is placed in the hands of the Chinese people. Foreign business people who

invest in the special zone and engage in other economic activities must abide by China's laws; they can only carry out their activities within the limits of specified areas to gain their legitimate profits. If foreign business people should violate Chinese laws, they would be subjected to the same investigation and consequences as would a Chinese business person.

Another method that ensures the socialist orientation is that Chinese-foreign joint ventures and foreign-owned enterprises that have been set up in the zone supplement China's socialist economy. The economic zone is a special area under the overall control of the socialist economy. With regard to foreign business people who come to invest in the special economic zone, Shenzhen follows the principle of equality and mutual benefit to protect their legitimate rights and interests. At the same time, the zone makes use of foreign funds, advanced technology and scientific management methods to develop socialist productive forces. In the process of development, even when some negative tendencies arise, Shenzhen authorities are fully capable of promptly correcting them, and ensuring that the economic zone develops along the socialist road.

**A classroom building of the Yucai Middle School.**

ZHAI WANXING



XUE CHAO

**The Bamboo Garden Hotel.**

In an effort to simultaneously develop its socialist culture and economic construction, the economic zone promotes education on communist ideals and discipline among the cadres and the masses. Shenzhen authorities are in the process of constructing cultural and educational facilities; one-third of the city's annual revenue is spent on expanding the socialist ideological and cultural position. Two-thirds of Shenzhen's factory and office workers study part time to improve their cultural and technological backgrounds. On the whole, social conduct and public order in the special economic zone are in good standing.

All economic and other criminal activities are being clamped down. In the past five years, the zone has dealt with more than 170 Party cadres involved in criminal activities, accounting for about 0.2 percent of the total number of Party cadres in the special zone.

\* \* \*

A great future lies ahead for the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone. With fairly sound foundations underneath every field, the special zone will continue to attract even more foreign investment. The in-depth development of the nation's economic reforms and the further

implementation of the open policy have given a big boost to construction in Shenzhen.

The development of a commodity economy in the Zhujiang delta area, the exploration and development of the Nanhai (South China Sea) Oilfield, the construction of the Daya Bay Nuclear Power Station and the exploitation of the natural resources at Dapeng Bay port—all go to demonstrate the huge potential of the Chinese special economic zone. The satisfactory solution of the Hongkong issue after the agreement on Hongkong was signed between the Chinese and British governments is conducive to strengthening Shenzhen's economic co-operation with Hongkong and promoting economic prosperity for the two regions. The development of the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone has now entered a new stage.

During China's Seventh Five-Year Plan period (1986-90), Shenzhen authorities have set the following targets: the total industrial output value of the zone will increase at an annual rate of 22 percent, the GNP at 18 percent, and the per-capita GNP at 11 percent. Efforts are being made to gradually turn Shenzhen into a comprehensive special economic zone, one that emphasizes the development of industry and has a rational economic structure based on advanced science and technology and a high level of socialist culture and ethics.



# Third International Photographic Exhibition

On display, at the Third International Photographic Exhibition held recently in Beijing, were more than 400 photos that had been selected from about 9,000 international entries. The exhibit, sponsored by the Chinese Photographers' Association, contained photos depicting life, people and customs from around the globe.

The following are some of the exhibit's photos:

Collective Dance.

*by Han Xuezhong (China)*





Ancient Lamasery.

by Wangjiudoji (China)



Waiting.

Morning Ride.

by Santoso Alimin (Indonesia)



Childhood.

by Lai Wing-Chiu (Macao)



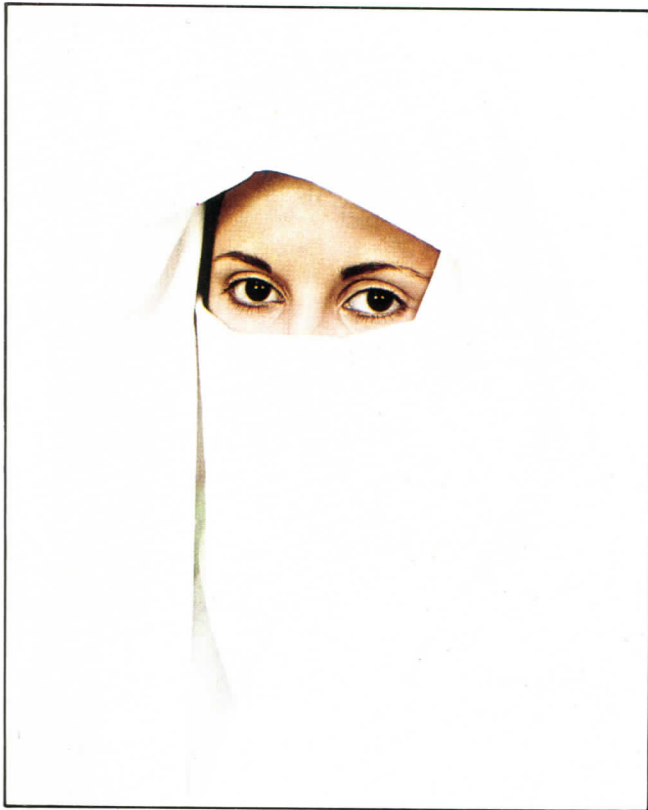


*by Yung Siu Sun (Hongkong)*



Duet.

*by Yuan Xuejun (China)*



Mistress of Light.

*by Horacio Rata Liendo (Argentina)*

Intoxication.

*by Leopold Vedich (Austria)*





Competition.

*by Edmund Fring (F. R. G.)*

Bicycle Flow.

*by Dong Fangming (China)*



# Democratic Parties Work for Modern China



XU XIANGJUN

Lu Jiayi, the president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

by Our Correspondent Li Rongxia

Most foreigners know that the Communist Party of China is the ruling party, but few people, even those who have been to China, know that China has other political parties. These parties, known as democratic parties, include the Revolutionary Committee of the Kuomintang, the China Democratic League, the China Democratic National Construction Association, the China Association for Promoting Democracy, the Chinese Peasants and Workers Democratic Party, the China Zhi Gong Dang, the Jiu San Society and the Taiwan Democratic Self-Government League. Altogether they have about 160,000 members.

Established in the 1930s-40s, these parties, representing the national bourgeoisie and urban petty bourgeoisie, were composed of intellectuals and patriots. During China's democratic revolution against imperialism and feudalism, they co-operated closely with the Communist Party

and worked hard for the establishment of New China. As socialist transformation was completed in 1956, these parties moved to serve socialist construction.

In China's effort for socialist modernization, members of these eight democratic parties have made outstanding achievements in various professions. In recent years more than 48,000 democratic party members have been cited as model workers. They have always been characterized by their high level of education and accomplishments in their professions. For example, Lu Jiayi, the president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and about half of its 396 members of the general assembly belong to different democratic parties. Employing their intellectual advantage, democratic parties organize their members to serve society by promoting education, offering

technological consultation, providing frontier areas with education and drawing in foreign investment for the country.

## Promoting Education

Lei Shikang, a lecturer of Guangxi Arts Institute and a member of the China Zhi Gong Dang, opened a night school for the fine arts in 1975. He makes no money through his teaching. He said he had only one ambition: to train more talented people for the country's modernization drive. Since 1975, 518 students have graduated from his school. They include workers, farmers, cadres, soldiers and unemployed youth. At last 103 graduates from the night school have been enrolled by fine arts institutes of higher learning, and 31 have entered fine arts training schools, and some

The members of the tree-planting investigation group sent by the central committee of the China Democratic League to Dingxi Prefecture, Gansu Province, in August 1984.

HUANG JINGJUN



others have become professional artists.

In recent years democratic parties and the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce have run 1,254 schools to train 570,000 students and have held seminars and lectures with at least 1 million participants. The subjects have covered topics such as enterprise management, finance, accounting, statistics, foreign trade, electrical engineering and electronics, traditional Chinese medicine and foreign languages.

### Technology Consultation

The Guyuan Tannery in the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region had been in debt for 500,000 yuan since it began operations three years ago, due to bad management and outdated technology.

Five months after the factory suspended production, a consultation team organized by the Shanghai branch of the China Democratic National Construction Association and the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce came to the rescue. The team, having come from China's largest industrial city and with a strong background in industrial administration, was able to restore production after three months spent in straightening out the factory. Within that same year, the factory turned deficits into profits. The following year the team altered the factory's production procedures and brought in more than 100,000 yuan.

Up to now, the democratic parties have established a network of more than 1,000 consultants with a combined workforce of 20,000.

### Helping Frontier Areas

The democratic parties also send specialists, scholars and

teachers to frontier areas to help develop local economies. In the past few years democrats have been sent to Inner Mongolia, Qinghai, Gansu, Xinjiang and Tibet to offer advice on 2,200 projects. One example was the central committee of the China Democratic League, which sent a tree-planting survey group to Dingxi Prefecture, in Gansu Province. After three on-the-spot investigations, the group filed a report that will serve as a guideline for local economic development and environmental protection in the future.

In the past two years the central committee of the China Association for Promoting Democracy has trained 6,600 people to become primary and middle school teachers and other professionals in 72 localities throughout the nation.

### Drawing on Foreign Funds

Tan Jing, 75, is a member of the Revolutionary Committee of the Kuomintang. His son and daughter who have emigrated to other countries have invited him to spend his later years abroad. But Tan replied, "I'm a Chinese and

my roots are in China. I think happiness for an old man of my age is to be able to do something for his motherland."

By employing his connections with foreigners, Tan serves as a go-between for foreign investment companies looking to hook up with Chinese enterprises. In 1981 his daughter and her husband came to China with the intention of seeking a Chinese partner to run a joint venture on behalf of the United States Nebraska Cattle Export Co., Tan recommended a livestock farm in Inner Mongolia to the US company. Through negotiations, both sides have signed a letter of intent on running a joint venture to raise cattle and in 1983 reached an agreement on setting up a cattle export company.

Members of democratic parties have made great strides towards introducing foreign technology, investment and equipment to China. They are involved in at least a dozen fields, including industry, agriculture, animal husbandry, mining, transportation and the tourist industry. With their foreign connections, democrats have done much for the promotion of intellectual activity

Song Ruiyao (middle) is receiving journalists.





in their hometowns, such as inviting foreign scholars to lecture and furthering local academic and cultural exchanges with foreigners.

### Offering Advice on Policies

The implementation of China's socialist modernization programme is a desire shared both by the Chinese Communist Party and the democratic parties. Following the principle of "long-term co-existence and mutual supervision," democratic parties carry out constant investigations and studies and make suggestions to the Communist Party and the government regarding their policies.

Ninety-year-old Sun Yueqi, the vice-chairman of the central

committee of the Revolutionary Committee of the Kuomintang, disregarding his old age, went to Inner Mongolia, Sichuan and the Three Gorges of the Changjiang (Yangtze) River for an on-the-spot investigation of the development in the area. Upon returning from his trip, Sun presented his proposal to the CPC Central Committee on how to develop Inner Mongolia and on building hydroelectric power stations in the Changjiang Valley.

In 1983 the China Democratic National Construction Association, the Chinese Peasants and Workers Democratic Party and the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce held a consultative meeting to discuss the question of the low quality and inadequacy in the variety of traditional Chinese medicine. At



GUO KEQUAN

Sun Yueqi (middle) surveying a coal mine in Inner Mongolia.

the meeting the participants drafted a document that proposed the rejuvenation of traditional Chinese medicine. It was presented to the CPC Central Committee and the State Council. Hu Yaobang, the General Secretary of CPC Central Committee, spoke highly of the recommendations and asked all relevant departments and units to co-operate closely with the democratic parties in an effort to improve the status of Chinese medicine.

The proposals made by the central committee of the China Democratic National Construction Association and the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce for restoring and developing China's traditional cuisine, and for reforming the management and circulation systems of China's tea industry have been endorsed by Premier Zhao Ziyang and other state leaders. The State Council has transmitted these proposals to the relevant departments for them to discuss and implement. Other such proposals by democratic parties include the amelioration of teacher training programmes and of China's publishing industry.

In October 1985, 400 model workers from the democratic parties were received by government leaders at the Great Hall of the People where they were praised for their remarkable contributions to the nation's modernization programme.

### A Plastic Surgeon's Contribution

Song Ruyao, a 71-year-old member of the Chinese Peasants and Workers Democratic Party, is the founding director of China's only plastic surgery hospital in Beijing. During the 1940s he studied plastic surgery in the United States for five years and received his doctorate. Returning to China in the early 1950s, Song joined the Chinese People's Volunteers in the Korean war, during which he gave medical treatment to the Chinese wounded soldiers. Later in 1957 he established China's first and only plastic surgery hospital. Song achieved a great deal of success in his profession. During those turbulent years of the "cultural revolution" (1966-76), however, he himself was subjected to criticism and his hospital was tagged a "bourgeois beauty parlor" and was forced to close down. It did not reopen until the end of 1978. Not long after it was reopened, Song invented a new method of transforming physical feature through advanced technology that requires only one operation. In the past when a patient wanted a new nose or ear or even genitals, he had to undergo three to six operations. Now Song constructs the transfiguration with only one operation. The new procedure has not only reduced the patient's pain and economic burden, but also reduced the pressure on China to train more plastic surgeons.

To develop plastic surgery in such an enormous country, Song realized that training more professionals was the key. In the last five years he has trained about 120 doctors on in-service training programmes, and has worked with more than a dozen medical students.

Song's accomplishments have brought international honour for China. At the International Facial Plastic and Planting Surgery Seminar held in 1983 in Los Angeles, USA, Song was awarded the "Golden-Saw" prize — the most prestigious honour in the field of plastic surgery.



"Swan Lake."

XU XIANGJUN

## Ballet Tour to Showcase New Dances

*Members of China's Central Ballet will leave February 19 to begin their first US tour. As the latest addition to Sino-American cultural exchanges, the two-month tour underscores the high standards and impressive achievements of Chinese ballet — an art form that was introduced to China only a few decades ago. Despite its youth, the Beijing-based company is an artistically well-balanced group composed of many dedicated dancers, some of whom have won prizes in international competition.*

by Our Correspondent Ling Yang

**W**hat a coincidence it is that we are leaving one bridge (Beijing's Tianqiao or 'Heavenly Bridge,' the site of the company's home theatre) only to arrive at another bridge (New York's Brooklyn Bridge)!" one company member told me enthusiastically.

The first stop on the company's 11-city tour will be New York, where tour artistic adviser Dai Ailian performed some 40 years ago. Dai has selected a programme intended to demonstrate the company's facility with both classical and modern Western works, as well as showcase its new Chinese-style ballets.

Representing the classical tradition in ballet will be the company's rendition of the second act from *Swan Lake* which was first performed in China in 1958, and the *pas de deux* from Act 2 of *Giselle*. Although the dancers are relative newcomers to classical Western ballet, they received a solid foundation in the style and technique of the Soviet school during the 1950s. The individual artistry of the principal dancers and the harmony and uniformity of the entire corps are outstanding.

Two contemporary works on the programme reflect the pro-

gress Chinese dancers have made in recent years in absorbing modern influences from the West. The first is *Variations for Four* by the renowned English choreographer, the late Sir Anton Dolin. The second, *Three Preludes*, was choreographed by American Ben Stevenson and is set to music by Rachmaninoff. This *pas de deux* was first performed in China in 1979 when Stevenson visited as a member of an American cultural delegation. Dolin and Stevenson both made several trips to China to oversee rehearsals of their pieces.

As part of its introduction of

new Chinese-style ballets to the American public, Central Ballet will perform Act 2 of *New Year's Sacrifice*, a four-act dance drama based on a short story by the famous 20th century Chinese novelist Lu Xun. The ballet's theme is the tragic life of a village woman oppressed by the feudal ethical code. In the second act the central character is forced by her cruel mother-in-law to remarry a strange man after the death of her husband. The outwardly happy atmosphere of the pre-nuptial festivities is contrasted with the bride's inward despair. Dramatic tension mounts as the groom finally succeeds in winning the bride's trust and love. The ballet harmoniously combines classical ballet and stylized traditional Chinese folk dance movement to great artistic effect.

Another programme offering is the full-length Chinese dance drama *The Maid of the Sea*. An epic ballet based on a Chinese folktale, the work tells the story of a beautiful princess of the sea pursued by a fierce demon and rescued by a courageous young hunter who later falls in love with her. The lyricism of the ballet is heightened through romantically expressive *pas de seul*, *pas de deux* and group dances.

Character roles in *Maid* encompass a range of mythologically animated beings, such as "Old Man Ginseng," and "Snake Maiden," which people the undersea world of fish, seaweed and coral. All this provides a gorgeous array of delicate rainbow hues and shades to the setting. The ballet's often exuberant stylized Chinese folk dances give ample expression to the dancers' virtuoso displays of athleticism.

If the magnificent spectacle afforded by the frankly mythological *Maid* can be said to be an artistic folk romance, then the powerfully theatrical *Sacrifice* is obviously a much more realistic work in that it strives to depict the characters' individual person-

alities and inner worlds through dance.

Chinese-style pageantry and athleticism combined with the beauty of classical Western technique is the hallmark of ballets being composed in China today. *New Year's Sacrifice* and *The Maid of the Sea* are complemented by a third offering on the tour programme, the *pas de deux* from *By the Spring*, a work based upon a love story from the minority Yi nationality in southwest China.

### The Performers

In addition to the dancers and choreographers trained in the 1950s in the Soviet school, Central Ballet will be introducing on this US tour a new crop of dancers who received their training in China in the 1960s and 1970s. One of the more outstanding of these younger dancers is Zhang Weiqiang, who has earned fame for his stage presence, technique and extraordinary elevation. In 1982, 1984 and 1985, Zhang won prizes in dance competitions in the United States, Japan and the Soviet Union.

Zhang, who was born in the eastern Chinese city of Suzhou,

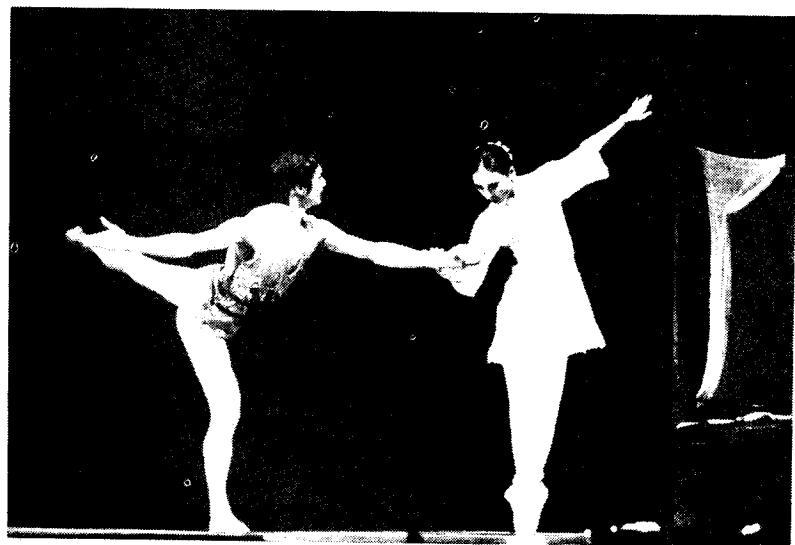
loved swimming, football and the long jump as a boy. In 1973 at the age of 12, he was selected from among several hundreds of school children to receive ballet training at the Beijing School of Dance. In his third year at the school, Zhang had an opportunity to see a performance of the Japanese Matsuyama Ballet Company. The company's principal dancers, Yoko Morishita and Tetsutaro Shimizu, entranced the boy with their grace and skill. When he learnt Shimizu had begun his ballet training in China in the 1960s when he was 17 years old, Zhang was inspired to emulate him.

In 1979, after his sixth year at the ballet school, Zhang graduated with high honours and joined the Central Ballet. In 1980 Ben Stevenson selected Zhang for advanced training at the Houston Ballet, where he was frequently invited to appear on stage as guest performer.

Participating in the 1982 international ballet competition in Jackson, Mississippi, Zhang danced the role of the prince in the *pas de deux* with the black swan in *Swan Lake*, and unexpectedly came out among the leaders in the first round.

"New Year's Sacrifice."

XU XIANGJUN





Dancer Zhang Weilqiang.

XU XIANGJUN



"The Maid of the Sea."

XU XIANGJUN

In the second round, which required a performance of a modern work, Zhang danced a Chinese solo work, *Sea Waves*, a simple, lively and romantic piece. Although his performance was acclaimed by the audience, the choreography was faulted for lacking depth and strength. Zhang's ranking fell suddenly to seventh place.

For the following round, Zhang had prepared *The Golden Deer*, a work based on Chinese-style dance. The piece's choreography emphasized expressive arm and eye movements, posture and romantic charm, and its performance required subtlety and delicacy. However, from his experience in the previous round, Zhang knew *Golden Deer* lacked the strength and speed traditionally required of ballets. Therefore, with the guidance of his teacher, he changed the entire appearance of the work in one day to showcase his *pas de élévation*. Zhang's achievement in *Golden Deer* greatly impressed the audience and panel of strict judges, and he went on to win the highest marks in the final round with his performance in a *pas de deux* from *Sleeping Beauty*.

Two years later, along with

more than 50 international dancers, Zhang participated in a tribute performance to the late Sir Anton Dolin at the Royal Theatre in London. During the tribute, Zhang's performance in *Variations for Four* was well-received. He went on to win prizes at the October 1984 international competition in Osaka, Japan and the June 1985 competition in Moscow. When people praised his mastery of the Russian-style classical ballet school and affirmed his presentation of pure British-style ballet, Zhang thought only of how he would like to devote more effort to developing Chinese-style ballet.

Aside from Zhang, Central Ballet has other exceptionally talented young dancers who seem destined for equally brilliant careers. Among these are Tang Min and Guo Peihui (women), and Zhao Minhua and Wang Caijun (men), each of whom has won prizes in international competitions in this decade.

### The Company

The 400 members of Central Ballet make up a particularly capable group and include dancers, instructors, choreographers,

musicians and dance theorists. Bai Shuxiang, the earliest member of the company and one of the first ballet artists to be trained in the People's Republic, began her training in 1954 when she entered the newly-established Beijing School of Dance.

Ballet was first imported to China in the 1920s. In those days one could find an occasional

Ballerina Feng Ying.

XU XIANGJUN





A scene from Sir Anton Dolin's "Variations for Four."

XU XIANGJUN

privately-run ballet school or a sporadic ballet performance in the cities of Harbin or Shanghai; nothing much, however, came of these incipient attempts to transplant ballet in China until after liberation.

In 1950 a small dance company formed by Dai Ailian, who was born in Trinidad and studied ballet in England, gave its first performance in Beijing. Four years later the Beijing School of Dance was established with Dai at its head, and Soviet ballet experts were invited to give basic training in ballet. Later the school was divided into ballet and folk dance sections. Bai Shuxiang and some 20 others were assigned to the ballet section and began to receive exclusive training in the Soviet style.

In 1956 the ballet section put on its first medium-length ballet, *La Fille Mal Gardée*. In 1958 Bai was selected to dance the technically-demanding double role of the black and white swans in *Swan Lake*. In 1960 the school established an experimental company (the fore-runner of the Central Ballet) with Bai as principal dancer. During this time she performed the leads in *Le Corsaire*, *Giselle*, *Fountains of Bakhchisarai* and *Notre-Dame de*

*Paris*.

In 1964 the company staged its first Chinese ballet, *Red Detachment of Women*, with Bai in the central role. Having as a theme the clash of a young woman's fiercely independent spirit with the oppressive institutions of the old society, the ballet was the first to meld traditional ballet technique with elements of the Chinese folk dance idiom.

During the "cultural revolution," Bai was sentenced to hard labour and was forbidden to perform or train for eight years. When the gang of four was toppled, she returned to the stage only after engaging in a rigorous programme to retrain herself. Taking up again her famous role in *Swan Lake* she was able to give her portrayal of the dying swan an added poignancy, derived from her own life's difficulties which had given her much insight into the role. At that time Bai was already over 40 and vice-director of Central Ballet. Praised for the bravura of her dancing, she modestly deflected attention from herself, suggesting there were many younger dancers who could equal or better her performance.

Central Ballet sees its function as introducing classical Western dance dramas and modern works

to China, while at the same time experimenting with ways of expressing aspects of the Chinese life experience through dance, in order to make ballet more relevant to and better appreciated by Chinese audiences.

Since the 1950s, Chinese ballets have been strongly influenced by the style of the Soviet school. However, in the last few years dance in China has developed rapidly and gone through some changes. Frequent contact and exchanges with dancers from abroad, facilitated by China's policy of opening up to the outside world, has encouraged artists to emancipate their minds and widen their creative field of vision. As part of this trend, ballet repertoire has been expanded to include French works such as *Sylvia* and works in the Danish school. Dance experts and composers from Great Britain, the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Japan, Austria and Peru have been invited in recent years to supervise the staging of their works and to hold master classes.

Whether newly choreographed Chinese ballets such as *The Maid of the Sea* and *New Year's Sacrifice* can be placed on a par with ballet treasures such as

*Giselle* and *Swan Lake* is hard to say. However, one cannot deny the choreographers' enthusiasm in contributing the best of their creative ability to ballet. Li Chengxiang, Central Ballet's director and one of the choreographers of *Maid*, said after a performance of his ballet based upon the famous Chinese 18th century novel *A Dream of Red Mansions*, "I am not seeking applause. My goal is to have my choreographies express the special

characteristics of the Chinese people in order to let others fully appreciate the beauty of our national heritage."

Certainly among the younger members of the company there is no lack of choreographers concerned with absorbing elements of modern dance into their creations. A recent experimental piece in this vein called *Searching for the Light* attempts to use the techniques and structure of modern ballet to express the theme of a young

Chinese woman's search for meaning and truth in life. Though this work is somewhat immature, it has been welcomed by audiences and has received public recognition.

One thing is definite, however. In the short period of its 25-year history, Central Ballet has come a long way; with the company's talented dancers and creative choreographers working hard, ballet in China has much promise for the future.

## Work Together to Invigorate China

*China's traditional Lunar New Year, or Spring Festival, fell on February 9 this year. Three days earlier, Xinhua News Agency published its commentator's article on the reunification of Taiwan and the mainland. "Beijing Review" reprints the article in full as follows.*

by Xinhua Commentator

**W**ith the approach of the Spring Festival of 1986, the sons and daughters of the Chinese nation throughout the world are jubilantly celebrating this traditional holiday. On this auspicious and happy occasion, we would like, in accordance with tradition, to extend festival greetings to our compatriots in Taiwan, Hongkong and Macao, and to Chinese nationals residing abroad. We wish you good health and happiness, and a domestic bliss.

It is known to all that in reality the recent situation on both sides of the Taiwan Straits has, as can be seen from various considerations openly stated or covertly conveyed by public figures as well as private individuals, been moving nearer to the eventual peaceful reunification of the motherland. It is patently obvious that this is the general trend of events and meets the demands of the times and the people. Even those who are desperately opposed to this have to yield their ground bit by bit, their hearts troubled and confused but

reluctant to face the facts honestly. We welcome the way things are moving, and understand the fix in which some people are finding themselves for the time being.

Nevertheless, like our compatriots in Taiwan and elsewhere, we really hope to see events develop a bit faster and shape up more definitely. In any case, "the need for China to reunify peacefully at an earlier date" has become the strong demand of all Chinese compatriots and a major topic of discussion in China and abroad.

People of all circles in Taiwan and Chinese nationals residing abroad, even numerous top civil and military persons within the Kuomintang, are dissatisfied with the rigid stand taken by the Taiwan authorities in opposing the Communist Party and rejecting proposals of the mainland for peace negotiations; they are critical of the unreasonable rejection of the call to resume posts and telecommunications, navigation and trade links be-

tween the mainland and Taiwan; and they call for the restoration of normal contacts between kith and kin now separated by the Straits between them. Defying bans, they have held various discussions of questions relating to China's reunification and Taiwan's future, making oblique hints to ways of achieving China's peaceful reunification. Meanwhile, indirect trade and exchanges of visit to relatives and friends, as well as academic, cultural and sports exchanges, are steadily increasing. Is there any one who can step forth and challenge these facts?

Along with the increase in exchanges, naturally, Taiwan compatriots and overseas Chinese who judge things objectively find that the political situation on the mainland has been stable in recent years, that its international position is steadily rising, that the Hongkong question has been resolved to the unanimous approval of the people of China and the rest of the world, and that the economic development and improvement of both urban and

rural living standards on the mainland have become the focus of world attention.

It is of course natural that people of various circles who are concerned about the mainland are not satisfied with everything that has taken place. As a matter of fact, the government and public on the mainland have never claimed that all is right with us. Moreover, different people have different views and are all free to hold them. There is no need to impose a consensus.

But the truly important thing is that the mainland of our motherland is making steady progress. The National Conference of the Chinese Communist Party held last September successfully completed the replacement of old leaders of the central institutions with younger ones, thus ensuring the stability of the nation's fundamental strategies and principles and policies for a long time to come. The concept of "one country, two systems" raised by the Chinese Communist Party is being gradually understood by compatriots in Taiwan, overseas Chinese throughout the world and other people who care about China's future. In the changing situation in Hongkong, the concept has proved itself entirely feasible.

A growing number of people are coming to realize that reunification of the motherland on the principle of "one country, two systems" suits the need of the nation's long-term stability and is also a guarantee for maintaining the present way of life and interests of our Taiwan compatriots; and that it greatly favours the long-term prospects of Taiwan's economic growth and makes it possible for our Taiwan compatriots to play their role in the four-modernization drive of the mainland. What a great future there will be when the Communist Party and the Kuomintang get united again to work for the

achievement of all these objectives! The deeds of merit of all those who contribute to this will surely go down in historical records, which is something their descendants will be proud of. Since we are all human, how could any one of us far-sighted Chinese be unmoved by the prospect or unawakened to his responsibility for the rise or fall of the nation?

The year 1986 is sure to be one of furthering the process of the peaceful reunification of the motherland. We sincerely hope that in this year, our compatriots of all nationalities and in all walks of life in Taiwan will continue to demonstrate their patriotic spirit, synchronize their efforts of seeking democracy and prosperity on the island with those of promoting peaceful reunification of the motherland, each person using his or her ability and through diverse channels to work for the reunification, and join us in the concerted effort to attend to state affairs; and that they urge the Kuomintang authorities to remove artificial barriers and change the policy of "no contact, no negotiation and no compromise." We hope at the same time that Hongkong and Macao compatriots and overseas Chinese will continue to serve as a bridge for exchanges in all fields on both sides of the Straits, and contribute their wisdom and efforts for reunification.

We have noted that the Taiwan Kuomintang authorities always maintain the one-China stand and oppose schemes known as "two Chinas" and "independence of Taiwan;" and we are happy to find that the authorities in Taiwan have, after all, taken a few steps towards easing the tension between both sides of the Straits. Current developments on the mainland are at the important point of invigoration and take-off, while Taiwan has the task of extricating itself from a predicament for reinvigoration. The world is changing rapidly, and people should make careful plans.

It is better to help yourself than to have others help you. Friend or foe, we both spring from the same roots. Dilatoriness is fraught with dangers, present obstinacy spells future ruin. We must change with rapidly changing circumstances; and is not reunification but a return to the normal and original order of things? Events develop according to their inherent laws, and honour and duty permit no turning back.

The country should be reunified at an earlier date so that the people on both sides of the Straits can live in peace and prosperity forever and the entire Chinese nation advance in step with the developed countries of the world. On your decision hinges success or failure, honour or discredit. It is our sincere hope that the Kuomintang authorities understand their position and role in history well and, balancing advantages and disadvantages and considering their own future, do things that suit the development of events and meet popular demand.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen declared 70 years ago: "Persons with foresight always do things that accord with heavenly principles, popular will, the trend of world events and the need of the masses hence their success in whatever they try to accomplish. This is how all revolutions and reforms and exploits to build up a nation have been carried out since ancient times." How finely said! One can certainly put into practice what one truly knows, and the Kuomintang gentlemen now in power should think this over and over again.

In the final analysis, their pressing task today is to make determined efforts to cast aside all unnecessary doubts and stop all empty talk, and take a bold step in the new year by blazing a new trail for the reunification of the motherland. That will certainly be a blessing for the entire Chinese people and nation, and it is the only way to ensure the well-being of the Kuomintang authorities.

## Carrier Rockets Enter World Market

The China Great Wall Industry Corporation and the Swedish Space Corporation signed a letter of intent on January 22 in Sweden, opening up the possibility for China's *Changzheng* (Long March) No.2 carrier rocket to enter the world market.

Manager Yue Zhuzhen of the CGWIC Planning department told *Beijing Review* the quoted price of the project would run to US\$4 million. Final negotiations will begin after CGWIC receives a US\$50,000 deposit from the Swedish company.

He pointed out that the *Changzheng* No. 2 was developed in the mid-1970s, and has been launched at least once a year since 1975 without mishap. The two-stage, liquid-fuel rocket can send a two-ton satellite into orbit.

The Chinese government also has decided to offer its customers the *Changzheng* No.3 three-stage rocket, which has a greater carrying capacity while flying the transitional orbit. It uses a liquefied-hydrogen and liquefied-oxygen propellant which produces high energy at low temperature. Yue said it was the *Changzheng* No.3 that carried a communications and broadcasting satellite into space on February 1, 1986.

Research on carrier rockets began in China in the 1960s. Today China features complete sets of launching facilities and measuring and controlling systems. Satellites that operate near earth were usually launched at the Jiuquan Center in Gansu Province, while earth synchronous satellites took off from the Xichang Center in Sichuan Province.

The Chinese People's Insurance Company began to accept insurance on the launching of scientific research and experimental satellites last October.

Tracking a carrier rocket at the command center of a satellite launching site.



## 67 Projects Need Investment

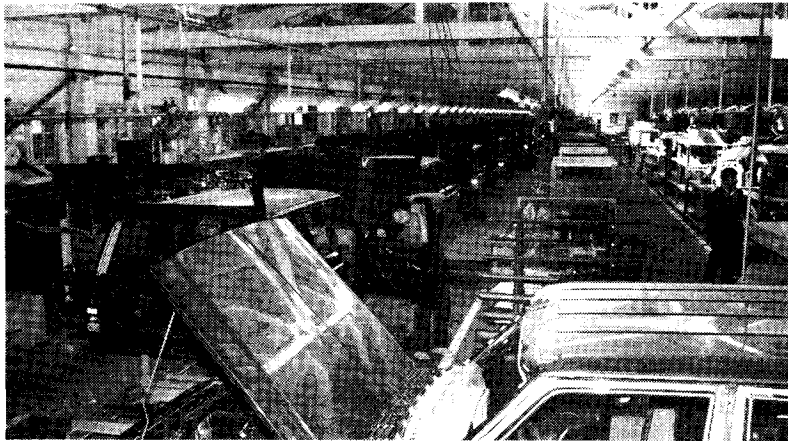
Under the sponsorship of the Jiangsu provincial government, foreign economic and trade talks will be held in Nanjing from March 1 to 12.

Sixty-seven planned projects will be offered, involving light industry, textiles, silk, electronics, machinery, chemicals, medicine, commerce and aquatic products. Feasibility studies on these projects have shown solid ground for investment.

Twenty-seven projects will be presented for joint investment, 14 for joint investment or compensatory trade, 15 for joint investment or co-operative management, four for co-operative management, and five for compensatory trade. Besides, there are production projects for licensed trade.

These projects will be located around the provincial capital Nanjing and other cities and towns. Some of these include the semi-conductive casings production line at the Nanjing Ceramics Plant, the production line for enamel bathtubs at the Nanjing Pot Factory, the linen products at the Changshu Sheet Mill, and the silk dyeing and printing technology at the Wuxi Silk Dyeing and Printing Plant.





Inside a workshop of the Sino-US Beijing Jeep Co. Ltd.

## New Rules Benefit Foreign Partners

The Chinese government has issued a new foreign currency regulation aimed at keeping foreign exchange reserves up and at increasing exports. The rules, which were formulated with foreign partners in joint and co-operative enterprises in mind, went into effect February 1, 1986.

Chu Baotai, deputy director of the Foreign Investment Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, told *Beijing Review* that the crux of the 14-clause foreign currency regulation was "to increase exports and earn more foreign currency."

He said China now features 6,000 such ventures, one third of which have begun operation. He said 70 percent of these are productive enterprises, in which 700 have logged imbalances in foreign currency. Though they don't have foreign currency quotas by contract, these enterprises can now expand their domestic sales and extend their time limits on export sales as long as they are technology- or knowledge-intensive businesses.

According to the new regulations, such businesses are also eligible for help in regulating the amount of foreign currency they can keep for promoting their

development. The Sino-U.S. Beijing Jeep Co. Ltd. and the Shanghai Volkswagen Automobile Co. Ltd. are two such operations.

The foreign currency imbalance in enterprises outside the above-mentioned categories can be addressed in two ways, Chu said. First, they can reinvest Renminbi profits into enterprises that earn foreign currency, with the approval of departments of foreign economic relations and trade and foreign currency administrations. They will also be entitled to a refund on a portion of their taxes. Second, these businesses can buy domestic products with Renminbi and export them for foreign currency. The regulation, however, does not mean the government has granted them rights to operate import-export businesses. All export commodities from joint ventures should be approved by the departments of foreign economic relations and trade, especially those whose quantities are subject to quotas and export permits.

The regulation further stipulated that joint venture products sold to domestic enterprises that are able to pay in foreign currency (not including those in the special economic zones and the economic and technological development areas in the open coastal cities,) could be paid in foreign currency

after permission was obtained from the state foreign currency administrations.

According to the law, Chu said, the foreign currency quotas could be adjusted between two or more enterprises run by the same foreign partner, pending government approval.

The regulation does not apply to banking and insurance establishments run by foreign partners or businesses from Hongkong, Macao and Taiwan.

China has enacted other laws and regulations to encourage foreign investment and to protect the interest of its foreign investors. Drafts of other rules concerning foreign business people, including those managing enterprises with foreign investment, are now under consideration.

## More Foreigners Bank On Guangdong

In 1985, 20 foreign banks opened offices in south China's Guangdong Province. Between 1981 and 1984 only 21 such offices opened in Guangdong.

Of the 41 banks, eight are among the world's 10 largest. They include the Sanwan Bank, the Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank, the Fuji Bank, the Sumitomo Bank and the Mitsubishi Bank, all of Japan; the US International Banking Corp.; Banque Nationale de Paris and Credit Lyonnais.

About half of the offices are located in the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone; the others are in Guangzhou and Zhuhai.

According to China's banking regulations, foreign banks are allowed to establish branches or agencies in Shenzhen, Zhuhai and other special economic zones to engage in financial activities. They are also permitted to set up liaison and consultant offices in cities outside the special economic zones.

# Ancient Acrobatics Spring to Life

Chinese acrobatics dates back to the Qin Dynasty (221-207 BC). It is clear from the ancient records and carvings of acrobatics on articles unearthed from ancient tombs, and on stones and bricks, bas-reliefs and paintings in temples and grottoes, that Chinese acrobatics attained a fairly high level thousands of years ago. During the prosperous Han (206 BC-220 AD) and Tang dynasties (618-907), acrobatics was one of the court's more important art forms and was often used to entertain visiting officials and diplomatic missions from other countries.

Last December performers from Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in south China visited Beijing and re-enacted a number of ancient acrobatic acts for

audiences there. Based on what it could gleam from available records, in a programme called "An Imitation of Ancient Acrobatics," the troupe combined acrobatics with poetry, songs, dances and modern stage decor and lighting to meet the tastes of modern audience.

As the curtain lifts on the performance, the audience sees an imperial court decorated with palace lanterns and dragon pillars. On the stage's backdrop is a drawing of an ancient chariot on which men and women are performing different acrobatic feats (See picture on the right). Women in long skirts imitate celestial figures as they fly, their long silk scarves blowing in the wind, just as in the murals and sculptures of Gansu's Dunhuang grottoes,

which date back to the fourth century.

During the performance accompanied by soft traditional music, a narrator recites poems that befit the atmosphere on stage and which sometimes serve as a prelude to the next item. The acrobatic performances are often

**This stone relief, which was unearthed in Shandong Province, depicts acrobatics from the Han Dynasty (25-220).**



**Plate-spinning.**

XU XIANGJUN





Glass-balancing.

XU XIANGJUN

interposed with dances.

The first act opens with "warriors" who juggle dazzling knives. Their act is followed by plate-spinning, in which one man and several women, each spins a plate on either one, three or five, one-meter-long bamboo rods by both hands. As the plates whirl faster and faster, they evoke images of lotus leaves that quiver in the wind, or of butterflies in flight. The next act involves two "imperial maids" in trailing skirts who twirl silk ribbons, while balancing tree-like lanterns with

10 burning candles on their heads. It is difficult to distinguish the maids' performances as either dance or acrobatics, for while it is graceful, it also involves a great deal of skill. The lion's dance which follows also delights audiences as a warrior teases two lovable and nimble lions through an entertaining *pas de trio*.

Feet juggling is one of the Guangxi troupe's best acts. In one such act a woman lies on a couch, raises her feet and proceeds to foot-juggle either a large plate, with a diameter of 1.2 m, or a 1.2-

m-long vase. This type of plate or vase was used as decorations for palaces or noble families in ancient times. On the artists' feet, however, they become mere toys. The juggler moves the plate forward and backward. A vase, however, turns up and down, first slowly and then very rapidly. As she juggles the plate or vase, the actress also uses her hands to juggle small carpets. Many feet jugglers today use less fragile items, such as umbrellas, or fans. Juggling with a huge plate or vase, however, certainly creates a sensation.

Along with the juggling, the troupe's gymnastics has also captivated audiences. In one of the gymnastics acts a woman lies on a round table and on her left foot she balances a pile of five or six bowls. She then tosses the bowls from her foot to her head with great precision. In the meantime, four "warriors" holding candles perform a classical dance to accompany her performance. The "warriors," dressed in feathered headgear who are in a low squat, and have bare feet and shoulders, spread their arms imitating a pose often seen on primitive cliff paintings in Guangxi.

A chair balancing act, in which five slanted chairs are precariously set on top of each other, while an acrobat balances from each of the chairs, is a seemingly impossible feat that puts the audience on the edges of its seats. The calming strains of the music *A Mountain Stream* which accompanies the act however helps to ease the audience's tension.

Though the actors have not yet perfectly duplicated the age-old performances, they have managed to bring ancient acrobatics back to life for modern audiences. Their efforts in seeking something new and beautiful from out of the past have been applauded by other actors and by audiences, for adapting traditional arts for contemporary entertainment is of common concern for us all in China's modernization drive.

## Softball Team Makes a Pitch for No.1

China's women's softball team outdid Canada 4-2 and New Zealand 9-1 in the Sixth World Women's Softball Championship in Auckland, New Zealand from January 18-27, and finished second to the US team.

China's team's players and coach said they were disappointed in their second-place finish, though this was their debut performance in the competition. Second place, they said, was not their goal.

After restoring softball as a national sport in 1984, following a nearly 20-year suspension, China has taken great pains to launch its softball into world class play.

In international competition in 1985 China's women's softball team captured second place in the South-Pacific Classic International Softball Tournament, during which they even hurled their way to a surprising 1-0 victory over the US women's team. In both the Second World Young Women's Softball Tournament held in the United States and in the Second Japan-US-China championship, China's team romped home with first place.

In preparation for the Sixth World Women's Championship, China's team went to the southern city of Kunming to train. During the training period, the women devoted themselves to honing their strength and strategies and to concentrating on the upcoming tournament.

Li Minkuan, coach of China's team, is a college graduate, and has mastered not only softball, but English and Japanese as well. His success in coaching the women's softball team attests to the importance of intellectuals in China's sports development.

Born and raised in Japan, Li returned to China in 1956. After his graduation from the Beijing

Institute of Iron and Steel Engineering, he worked in the Ministry of Metallurgy before becoming a technical adviser to the team and later its coach. He also taught Japanese language to the national softball team, and translated a large number of articles on softball from English to Chinese. Under his influence, the softball players have become keen about their studies. Many of the retired members are now studying in colleges, and two are coaches of the Beijing Softball Team.

During his various positions with the team, Li learnt a great deal about what made for a competitive softball team. He learnt in particular how to combine the defence prowess of the American and Japanese teams with the agility, speed and quick reflexes of the weaker Chinese players. As for offence, Li stressed three aspects of hitting: small steps, tight swings and minimal waist movement. The combination, he said, would make for better hitting power and placement. In addition to physical strength and strategy, Li maintains that a good frame of mind is also very important for a competitive team. In order to achieve that state of mind, Li has many methods used to relax his players before a match.

Li is a serious and exacting coach when the team is training, and among other things, insists the players continue to play even after being hit by the ball. During a match in the United States in 1981, one of Li's players sprained her foot but returned to her position to finish out the game. Off the field, Li Minkuan, however, can be a different man. To his players Li is known as a popular hair dresser and singer.

Because softball only has a small following in China today,

many of the team's victories and accomplishments go unrecognized. It was not until team captain Ren Yanli had been playing the game for 10 years that her mother asked her what softball was like. Despite the limited following China's softball players continue to improve their game in the hopes that one day people will applaud their efforts.

The team has several exceptional players. Among them are the team's designated hitter Shi Minyue, 20, who is the youngest player of the team. She became well-known for her strength as a hitter during the Japan-US-China championship when she was awarded the most valuable batter. Don Porter, secretary-general of the International Softball Federation, once described Shi's bat as having eyes.

Sun Yuefeng, from Tianjin, is a starting pitcher who can heave a ball as fast as 100 km per hour. Known for her curve ball in last year's South-Pacific Women's Classic International Softball Tournament, Sun was awarded as top pitcher.

In order to surpass its arch rival, the American team, secretary-general Don Porter of ISF said China needs to be more lively and creative. All in all, however, Porter said, "China's team is one of the strongest in the world."



## Mao Dun Reaches Around the Globe

*Foreign Scholars on Works of Mao Dun*, a collection of essays of scholars from 14 countries\* on the literary contributions of Mao Dun, one of China's most renowned 20th century writers, was recently published in Chinese. Mao, who was born Shen Yanbing in 1896, died in 1981. The pieces in this work span from 1931 to 1983.

The book also contains prefaces and postscripts by Mao Dun for the translated editions of his works, in addition to entries on Mao Dun from encyclopaedias, foreign research papers and other materials relating to Mao Dun. With the exception of a few articles, most were translated into Chinese in the process of compiling the book.

Because the book contains articles with various, and often conflicting opinions about Mao Dun's writing, the collection will not only enhance readers' understanding of Mao Dun, but will leave them with insight into academic trends around the world.

Zhao Tiexin

## Complete Works Of Ba Jin

The first several volumes of *The Complete Works of Ba Jin* will be published in Chinese this fall by the People's Literature Publishing House. The collection will be the first compilation of the works of a living Chinese author.

\* The 14 countries are the Soviet Union, the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia, France, Britain, Spain, Greece, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Mongolia, Viet Nam, Korea, Thailand and the United States.

Ba Jin, who is one of China's most eminent authors living today, has accumulated a wide international audience. Beginning in 1923, Ba Jin has since devoted himself to founding and building on China's modern literature. His artistic contributions have been noted as among the most influential in China. His numerous works include *The Torrent Trilogy* (including *The Family*, *Spring* and *Autumn*), *Qiyuan Garden* and *Winter Night*.

The collection contains the author's novels, essays, reports, letters and diaries from 60 years. The pieces are all classified according to type and are listed chronologically. The volumes of novels will be the first published.

Li Hui

## Prose Readings From Taiwan

*Readings in Modern Prose From Taiwan* (in Chinese) will be published soon by the China Friendship Publishing Co. in Beijing. The collection, edited chiefly by Yang Mu, a Taiwan writer, includes 73 writings contributed by 34 contemporary Taiwan authors.

Each piece in the collection is preceded by a profile of the contributing author, providing readers with useful information about the author's literary and academic background. Bi Suwang, a Beijing writer, has commented favourably on the book, calling it one of the best books compiled by overseas compatriots in recent years.

*Readings in Modern Prose From Taiwan* contains pieces on a broad

range of themes, including commentary on day-to-day life and on life's trials and tribulations, as well as those expressing one's nostalgia for home and yearning for friendship and freedom. Through these writings, which explore the various recesses of the authors' inner worlds, the reader is given a rare look into the authors' hopes, aspirations and sorrows.

Yun Mei

## Mongolian Epic "Jangariad"

*Jangariad*, a famous 15th century Mongolian epic, was published in October 1985 in Urumqi, the capital of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

The book tells the fictional tale of Jangariad, leader of the Mongolian people in the Oirad area, which is located in the northwest of present-day Xinjiang.

Because the story details the history, religion, culture, art and philosophy of the Mongolian people in Oirad, the epic has aroused interest among scholars in China, the Soviet Union, Mongolia, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United States and Japan.

*Jangariad* was first popular among the Mongolians in the 12th-13th centuries. By the 15th century, the tale had evolved into an epic. It was verbally passed from generation to generation as a well-loved form of entertainment that involved both singing and talking.

The Xinjiang Branch of the Chinese Society for the Study of Folk Literature and Art and the Xinjiang People's Publishing House compiled and published this edition of the *Jangariad*.

## Kudos for Zhou Enlai & Travelogue

This is just a note to tell you how much I enjoyed the January 6 issue of *Beijing Review*. The articles on Zhou Enlai were very informative, and your book review prompted me to buy a copy of the Fangs' new biography so I could learn more about this great man. The journalist's article about recent changes in Kunming and the southwest was also fascinating, partly because I plan to travel there next month and partly because it contained such insightful reporting and thought on the effects, good and bad, of the economic reforms on Chinese life in general.

I like to learn about various aspects of Chinese society and so appreciate your articles on education, religion, the new legal system, etc. I would like to see more articles on the status of women and the problems of special groups such as the young, the old, and the mentally and physically handicapped.

David Bedell  
Beijing, China

I found the Travelogue very informative and picturesque for it gives the reader an insight into the economic and socio-cultural changes taking place in the rural areas. This is the type of thing to draw readers closer to China. So, keep it up.

Michael Peyni Noku  
Maiduguri, Nigeria.

This is just to let you know how very much I have enjoyed reading "Sunshine and Shadows," the two-part travelogue (*BR* No. 1 & 2). More! More! Please!!!

Marie Friedmen  
Oregon, USA

## About Chinese Language Building Character

I read with interest in your January 20, 1986 issue the article

"Chinese Language Building Character." It described Vice-Premier Wan Li's concern for and realization of the importance of standardization of the Chinese language. He further emphasized its relationship to modernization. I agree wholeheartedly with the Vice-Premier. Furthermore, I admire him for his statement that too many liberties have been taken with the Chinese language, including abuses and simplification of Chinese characters at will.

For those of us who learnt Chinese characters in their "classic form," this is good news. Since normalization, Chinese-Americans who have visited China from time to time have found the simplified characters difficult to understand. However, with understanding of the context of the sentence, they are fairly easily figured out. True, simplification of some characters has been of great value, but abuses in the simplification trend will ruin the language. Therefore, I am glad to see this movement in standardization.

Again, I am happy that *putonghua* is being re-emphasized as the spoken language to be used throughout China. After all, language is the basic means of communication.

However, the State Commission on language deserves praise in its effort to standardize the Chinese language by popularizing *putonghua*, keeping *pinyin* as a system of romanization and most of all, preserving Chinese characters in their proper application.

William Q. Wu, M. D.  
Missouri, USA

## Condemning Apartheid

I wish to thank my fellow *Beijing Review* reader Dramone Traore dit Badra of Segou, Mali, for his letter and your article "Nelson Mandela Leads Behind

Bars" all of which appeared in your December 16, 1985 issue.

Like my friend Dramone of Mali, I feel like crying whenever I read something about racial segregation in South Africa — how our brothers and sisters are suffering for their rights, how innocent blood is being shed there, how our brothers and sisters are constantly apprehended and forced behind lock and key and how South Africa is destabilizing other independent southern African countries. How many innocent people will be killed before Botha gets rid of the apartheid policy. We don't know how many innocent people have so far lost their lives as a result of racism since 1960. But we know the number must be an alarming one. Some have lost both their parents, some have lost their children, some have become homeless, some are still cooling their heels behind bars, and some are waiting to be hanged by Botha.

Is the world happy about what is taking place inside South Africa? The United Nations must step in and do some thing for a change. We are sick and tired of the constant warnings of the UN to stop apartheid. Botha must be forced to abandon apartheid. Every body must be equal before the law. Countries of the world must now stand up firmly and act, which speaks louder than words.

Musonda Mwanze  
Lusaka, Zambia

## Comments on "International" Articles

Although I like your "International" column I do not think your comments are always accurate. Your reports are, however, clearer than the Japanese, and the contents are easy to understand. Despite the faults, it is important that we know foreigners' opinions help broaden our own outlooks.

Tohoahi Yano  
Fukuoda, Japan



A sitting tiger.



A horse.



A pig.

## Painted Clay Sculptures from Shaanxi

Shaanxi Province has long been acclaimed for its painted clay sculpture, which as a folk art dates back more than 600 years. The pieces, which are often meant to resemble characters from legends and fairy tales or good luck plants and animals, are distinguished by their exaggerated and colourful design.



The face of a tiger  
for wall decoration.

**ART PAGE**



Characters from the Chinese classic  
*"Pilgrimage to the West."*

三角牌



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