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RAISING AND EDUCATING CHILDREN IN CHINA



UN Helps Area Sow Seeds
of Prosperity

SPOTLIGHT

Children advocating the protection of birds.

Photo by Shen Yantai



A science-and-technology group in a children's palace.

Photo by Fang Shaochu



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COVER: Spring Through Children's Eyes (For explanations, see p. 29).

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Laws Guarantee Investors' Interests

■ In recent years, China has adopted 200 laws and regulations concerning utilization of foreign capital. With these legal guarantees for their lawful rights and interests, foreign investors should feel more comfortable about investing in China in whatever form they might choose (p. 4).

Gardeners and Flowers: Child Care

■ This special report by our correspondent gives detailed facts and figures to illustrate how children in China are educated and brought up. Our correspondent visited maternity hospitals, health centres, nurseries, kindergartens, schools and families in Fuzhou, Xiamen and Zhangzhou in China's eastern coastal province of Fujian (p. 18).

UN-Aided Projects Effective in China

■ UN projects in China are well-planned, effective and successful, said James C. Ingram, director of the UN World Food Programme, during his interview with *Beijing Review* (p. 16). One example is the desalinization operation in Hebei Province, which has turned impoverished saline soil into fertile farmland (p. 14).

Nuclear Plants Take Safety as Priority

■ In the construction and operation of nuclear power plants, China will always uphold "safety and quality first" as the guiding principle. The state has now adopted five measures to ensure nuclear safety (p. 5).

Taiwan Airline Incident Breaks Silence

■ Beijing and Taipei—meeting face-to-face for the first time in 37 years—worked out a satisfactory solution for the transfer of the Boeing 747 cargo plane flown to the mainland by Wang Xijue, a pilot from Taiwan's China Airlines. Their willingness to sit together at the negotiation table could be the first step towards more contact in the near future (p. 6).

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Legal Guarantee for Foreign Investors

by Jing Wei

China's open policy has aroused the great interest of many foreign investors who envisage the broad prospects for investing in China. Some of these investors, however, worry about possible changes in China's policy and about the lack of legal guarantee for their businesses. They are, therefore, hesitating about making a move.

Their hesitation, it seems to me, is unnecessary. Opening to the outside world is a long-term, basic state policy, and China will never return to its past isolation.

When the open policy was first enacted, China did lack necessary laws and regulations to guarantee foreign investors' rights and interests. And the government's reputation and the readiness of partners to abide by contracts were relied on to make up the deficiency. Now, however, the situation has changed. In the past few years, China has adopted about 200 laws and regulations concerning the utilization of foreign capital. And now there are laws to go by when tackling some major issues.

Now let us see what legal guarantees China has provided for foreign investors and their businesses operated in China.

■ **The Constitution.** "The Constitution of the People's Republic of China," passed by the National People's Congress in December 1982, says China permits foreign investment. It also states that the lawful rights and interests of foreign enterprises and other foreign economic organizations in China, as well as joint ventures in China using Chinese and foreign investment are protected by the laws of the People's Republic of China.

■ **Laws on joint ventures.** The joint venture is one of the three major forms in using foreign capital in China. Between 1979

and 1985, more than 2,300 such enterprises were approved by the Chinese government. Many laws, including "The Law of the People's Republic of China on Chinese-Foreign Joint Ventures," "Regulations for the Implementation of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Chinese-Foreign Joint Ventures," "The Income Tax Law of the People's Republic of China Concerning Chinese-Foreign Joint Ventures" and others have specified protection of the rights and interests of foreign investors.

The legislation stipulates, among other things, that the Chinese government protects, in accordance with the law, the investment of foreign joint venturers, the profits due them and their other lawful rights and interests in a joint venture. The net profits that a foreign joint venturer receives after fulfilling its obligations under the laws and the agreement and the contract, the funds it receives at the time of the joint venture's scheduled expiration or early termination, and its other funds may be remitted abroad. They also stipulate that disputes arising between the parties to a joint venture that the board of directors cannot solve through consultation may be settled through mediation or arbitration by a Chinese arbitration agency or through arbitration by another arbitration agency agreed upon by the parties to the venture.

Article 100 of the "Regulations for the Implementation of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Chinese-Foreign Joint Ventures" promulgated in 1983 by the State Council was revised this January. The revised article states that the duration of those projects that require large amounts of investment, long construction periods and those that produce

low profit rates on funds; projects that make sophisticated products with advanced or key technologies provided by foreign venturers or projects that turn out products competitive on the international market can be extended to 50 years, or more when specially approved by the State Council.

■ **Laws concerning exclusively foreign-funded enterprises.** As another major form to attract foreign capital, exclusively foreign-funded enterprises have been legal in China since 1980. By the end of 1985, a total of 120 such enterprises had been approved by the government.

The "Law on Enterprises Operated Exclusively With Foreign Capital" promulgated on April 12, 1986 stipulates that the People's Republic of China permits foreign investors to set up enterprises operating exclusively with foreign capital in China, and protects the lawful rights and interests of the enterprises so established. Except under special circumstances, it says, the state shall not nationalize or expropriate a wholly-owned foreign enterprise. Should it prove necessary to do so in the public interest, legal procedures will be followed and reasonable compensation will be made. It further states that such enterprises shall be free from interference in their operations and management so long as these are conducted in accordance with the approved articles of association. The wholly-owned foreign enterprise may purchase, either in China or from the world market, raw and semi-finished materials, fuels and other materials it needs. If the enterprise reinvests a portion of its after-tax profits in China, it may, in accordance with relevant state regulations, apply for a refund of the income tax paid on the reinvested amount. If, with the

approval of the competent authorities, the enterprise markets its products in China and consequently experiences an imbalance in foreign exchange, the said authorities shall be responsible for helping it to eliminate the imbalance.

The law also stipulates that foreign investors may remit abroad profits legitimately earned from the enterprises, as well as other lawful earnings and any funds left over after the enterprise is liquidated. Wages, salaries and other legitimate income earned by foreign employees in the enterprise may be remitted abroad after the payment of personal income tax in accordance with Chinese law.

■ Laws concerning Chinese-foreign co-operative enterprise.

Running co-operative enterprise is the third major method of attracting foreign capital. By the end of 1985, 3,700 such enterprises had been set up. Despite the absence of a specific law governing the operations of these enterprises, the rights and interests of foreign investors will also be protected by relevant Chinese laws when a contract is signed between the Chinese and foreign partners to the enterprise. Such a contract, when approved by the Chinese government, is legally binding.

From the stipulations of the laws and regulations mentioned above, one can see that the rights and interests of foreign investors are protected. Of course, some other relevant laws and regulations, such as the company law, the bankruptcy law and the law on the adaptability of laws, are yet to be formulated. The government has stated in the "Law of the People's Republic of China on Sino-Foreign Economic Contracts" that if there are no relevant stipulations in Chinese law, international norms will apply and that when disputes arise, the parties to a contract may seek settlement according to the laws they decide are most applicable. If they make no choice, the law of the country most closely involved in the contract will apply.

Measures for Nuclear Safety

China must regard safety and quality as priorities in the construction and operation of its nuclear power stations, said Vice-Premier Li Peng on May 21 during an inspection tour of the Dayawan Nuclear Power Station.

The station is now under construction near Shenzhen in Guangdong Province.

In his speech, Li urged officials and workers to be ever vigilant, even though the technology at the Dayawan station is more advanced and its cooling systems more reliable than the ones at the Soviet Chernobyl plant.

Li then listed five measures to ensure nuclear safety:

—The State Council has established a State Nuclear Safety Bureau to draft rules and set standards for China's peaceful use of nuclear energy. The bureau will set up two safety supervision centres to ensure the quality of the design and construction of the Qinshan Nuclear Power Station in Zhejiang Province and the Dayawan Nuclear Power Station in Guangdong Province.

—French safety standards have been adopted for the Guangdong nuclear power station as its sophisticated equipment is imported from France. The safety standards of the International Atomic Energy Agency will also be referred to.

—A scientific quality control system will be established for the construction of nuclear power stations. The speed of construction should not jeopardize the quality of construction; when speed and quality clash, quality will have top priority.

—Great efforts will be made to train skilled technicians for the future operation of nuclear power stations.

—The country will take the initiative to learn from advanced international experience in build-

ing and operating nuclear power stations and support technical cooperation and information exchanges in safety control.

The Xinhua News Agency meanwhile reported that Chen Zhaoming, vice-minister of nuclear industry, said in Beijing that the first phase of the Chinese-designed Qinshan Nuclear Power Station will be completed and begin generating electricity in 1989. This phase of the project involves the installation of a 300,000-kw nuclear reactor.

The second phase of the Qinshan station, consisting of the installation of two 600,000-kw reactors and the construction of the Dayawan plant with two 900,000-kw reactors will also start during the Seventh Five-Year Plan (1986-90).

The vice-minister also revealed that the related government departments are designing and experimenting with heat-supply systems fueled by nuclear energy and will try to build a heat-supply plant during the next five years.

Talks Over Jet Break Icy Silence

The Boeing 747 cargo jet piloted by Wang Xijue to Guangzhou on May 3 was flown to Hongkong and returned to representatives of the Taiwan China Airline (CAL) on May 23. Thus ended a historic episode that led to the first official contact between the mainland and Taiwan in 37 years. On the flight to Hong Kong by a Beijing crew were two CAL crew members who opted to return to Taiwan.

After the plane landed at Kai Tak Airport, representatives from the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) and CAL boarded the jetliner and signed documents acknowledging the

China & the World

■ **Chinese Foreign Minister Visits Europe.** Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian left Copenhagen on May 22 for Belgium, the fourth leg of his nine-nation European tour. Wu's trip will have taken him to Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Belgium, Luxembourg, Ireland, Democratic Germany and Hungary.

■ **Wang Zhen Visits Singapore and Thailand.** Wang Zhen, honorary president of the China Association for International Friendly Contacts, and his party left Beijing on May 19 for a tour of Singapore and Thailand. Wang, also vice-chairman of the Communist Party Central Advisory Commission, had been invited by the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Thai-Chinese Friendship Association.

■ **Sino-Portuguese Talks on the Settlement of Macao.** Talks between the Chinese and Portuguese governments on the return of Macao to the mainland will begin in Beijing at the end of June, according to a press communique issued in Beijing on May 20. The decision to conduct talks was made by the two governments through friendly consultations, the press communique said.

■ **Classic Chinese Gardens Planted Abroad.** Some 20 gardens in classic Chinese styles have been or are being built in countries and regions in Western Europe, North America, Asia and Africa by the Garden Construction Co. of the China Construction Engineering Corp.

return. The CAAC representatives wished the two crewmen, co-pilot Dong Guangxing and mechanic Qiu Zhiming, pleasant reunions with their families in Taiwan.

The return flight was made possible following an agreement reached by CAAC and CAL representatives after four rounds of discussions that began on May 17.

Zhang Ruipu, chief CAAC representative, said after three days of face-to-face meetings that the discussions had attracted the attention of people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait. "I am very glad that we have lived up to their expectations," he said. Zhang described the talks as "fruitful." They proceeded at a level of equality, mutual respect and understanding, in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, he said. The mainland and Taiwan have not held any formal talks since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, at which time the Kuomintang authorities retreated to Taiwan.

"This shows that there is no problem that cannot be resolved between us countrymen and brothers," he said.

Many newspapers and noted figures worldwide also expressed their appreciation of the agreement on the handover plan. "The spirit of mutual understanding and accommodation shown in their discussions created advantageous conditions for breaking the deadlock in their contacts, eliminating their differences and bringing them closer," the Hong Kong-based daily newspaper *Express* said in a commentary.

A May 22 editorial in the English-language *Japan Times* said: "It is premature to say that the successful conclusion of the negotiation is a positive indication of the beginning of a thaw between Beijing and Taipei. But there have been some welcome signs of a flexible attitude on the part of Taipei towards Beijing of late."

Pilot Wang Xijue, 56, who diverted the plane to Guangzhou

during a routine flight from Bangkok to Hong Kong, announced his desire to remain on the mainland. A native of Sichuan Province, he told reporters at a news conference in Beijing that he returned because he wanted to be reunited with his 82-year-old father and brothers.

Meanwhile, when officials were informed that the two other crew members asked to return to Taiwan, their wishes were met respectfully.

"We stand for exchanges of trade, mail, air and shipping services between both sides of the Strait, and that people are free to come and go of their own accord," said Vice-Premier Tian Jiyuan when meeting with Wang Xijue's family. "We mean what we have said."

The incident, the first home return of a civilian aircraft, aroused a sensation among compatriots in Taiwan. "I'm just one of the thousands who missed the mainland and are looking forward to meeting their families," said Wang. "Thoughts of my native land and relatives had increased daily over the past few years," he added.

A Kuomintang official in Taipei told Agence France Presse that it would be no surprise that more people would urge authorities to relax their stand and open direct contact at the people-to-people level on the ground of humanitarianism. He said it was "agonizing for the government to ban visits to China by erstwhile mainlanders living in Taiwan and to forbid direct mail exchange." He added, however, "we have to wait and see" whether the talks would trigger any liberalization. The official said, "Undeniably, the blood ties and cultural and sentimental links between people on the two sides can never be severed."

The *United Daily News*, a major Taiwan newspaper, editorialized that Taiwan's 37-year-old "no contact, no talks and no compromise policy on Beijing,

which has caused much discontent among the Taiwan public, no longer suited the times.

"We don't believe that the government's repeated reaffirmation of its 'three no's policy' can solve any problems," the paper said.

Throughout the negotiations over the return of the plane, the Taiwan authorities repeatedly said the talks did not represent any change in policy and were only held out of humanitarian concerns for the two crew members who wanted to go home. But the editorial asked why they considered negotiations over the fate of an aircraft and two crew members a humanitarian issue, while they did not consider talks on reuniting families on both sides in the same light.

For years, China has made repeated conciliatory efforts—always rejected by Taiwan—to establish commercial, navigational and telecommunication links between Taiwan and the mainland. After the incident, Chinese Vice-Premier Tian Jiyun reiterated that it was in the interests of all Chinese to come to an agreement on these exchanges before the peaceful reunification of the country could take place.

"We wish to use ways acceptable to both sides to promote actively the exchanges and co-operation in various fields between the two sides of the Straits, and work with unremitting efforts for the peaceful reunification of the motherland," he said.

This Is It! And It's Not Coke

Few soft drinks in the world can compete with Coca Cola. But in China it may have met its match. *Tianfu* Cola, produced by the Chongqing Tianfu Cola Beverage Company, has not only been a big hit in China since it came out in 1981, but has reached the international market as well.

The Chongqing Beverage Com-

pany has become China's leading soft-drink chain to date, including 81 factories in 26 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, involving 19 different industries. In the past seven years, the company has increased its output value four times over, and its profits, seven times.

Yet seven years ago, the company had only 200 workers, with a few shabby buildings, and its business was on the brink of bankruptcy.

The rags-to-riches story of the factory is closely linked to co-operation and to the credit of its director, Li Peiquan, a demobilized PLA soldier. Eight years ago Li was appointed director of the foundering factory. A year later, the factory turned in 510,000 yuan in profits to the state for the first time.

But that was not enough for Li. He began mulling over ways to expand production and he went on to investigate China's beverage market, and found the supply far from adequate.

He asked himself what type of beverage would be most successful on the market. Then he recalled scenes of young people drinking Coca Cola with great relish, and wondered why China couldn't produce a Coke-type drink of its own.

Li knew very well that the development of such a drink would be impossible without skilled scientists and technicians. He then decided to co-operate with research institutions. In November 1979, the factory signed a contract with the Herbal Medicine Research Institute of Sichuan Province to come up with a drink that tasted like Coca Cola. After seven months of hard work, repeated experiments, and plenty of taste-testing, China's cola with the trademark *Tianfu* came into being. *Tianfu* means "land of abundance," as Sichuan Province is known in China.

Tianfu Cola was an immediate success. It won medals in Sichuan Province, and was commended by

News in Brief

Government leaders will conduct a national defence research investigation alongside military officers at the National Defence University this autumn. It will be the first time that senior officials and high-ranking officers will study national defence strategy and its modernization together. Along with officers above the rank of army commander, the national defence research department of the university will enrol officials at or above the level of bureau directors.

The government has ordered 106 unauthorized construction projects that began in the last three months of 1985 stopped. The authorities investigated a total of 763 such extra-budget projects all over China during the first three months of this year, after a State Council ruling to clamp down on runaway capital construction. Of these, 148—mainly housing and cultural, educational and public health facilities—were allowed to continue. The halted projects are mainly office buildings.

A comprehensive pollution-control programme conducted since 1979 has recently brought back a dozen dolphins to Xiangjiang River in Hunan Province. The clever aquatic animals had vanished since the 1960s when more than 1,000 factories and mines went into operation along this 850-km river.



HU YUE

Off to Swim With a Smile

Kids enjoying themselves at the Sanya beach on Hainan Island in southern China.

the Light Industry Ministry and the state. Newspapers and magazines from Hong Kong and Macao, Japan and the United States spoke highly of the product.

Now that the factory had its famous-brand product, its authorities decided to expand its market. Again Li took hints from the Coca Cola Company of the United States, which owns factories in more than 130 countries. He tentatively took his first step to sign co-operation agreements with other regions. In 1982, the Chongqing Beverage Factory began to produce *Tianfu* Cola in co-operation with Miyi County of

Dukou city, in forms of joint investment and management. The Miyi factory not only recovered its investment in one year; it also pulled in profits of more than 400,000 yuan. The factory then extended its co-operation to Nanchong and succeeded there, too. The success of co-operation attracted other factories across the country. More than 800 enterprises asked to go into co-operation with the Chongqing Beverage Factory, which selected 81 of the factories and formed the Chongqing *Tianfu* Cola Beverage Company.

Co-operation was the key to

Tianfu Cola's success on the market. Within one year, the product was all over Sichuan Province. Then it has become much sought after on markets in more than half of China. Now the 81 factories under the company produce six times as much as the Chongqing Beverage Factory itself.

Director Li then set his eyes on the international market. But, deep in central China, the Chongqing factory is too far removed. Li realized he had to find a partner within easy reach of the international market. A 10-year agreement to co-produce pull-open



Deng Xiaoping greeting Australian Premier Minister Robert Hawke during his six-day visit to Beijing.

canned *Tianfu* Cola was then signed with the Huacheng Soft Drink Factory in Guangzhou, the southern gate of China that is close to Hong Kong.

In May 1984, a US\$320,000-production line, imported from the Federal Republic of Germany, was put into production in the Huacheng Soft Drink Factory. By the end of the year, the factory had produced 2 million cans of *Tianfu* Cola, recovering 170,000 yuan of investment. Last year 610,000 yuan of investment was recovered, and the total investment is expected to be recovered by the first half of 1986.

Today the soft drink is in great demand in Guangzhou, and the Huacheng Soft Drink Factory has become an important base for exporting *Tianfu* Cola to Southeast Asian countries. Orders keep snowing in from all over the world, and overseas businessmen flock to Chongqing in a constant stream for business talks.

It was co-operation that brought *Tianfu* Cola into being, and sent it onto the world market. Reflecting on the course his factory has undergone, Li said that although the co-operative road was not always smooth, it was an inevitable one for the

enterprises' resurgence and economic prosperity. ■

Australian Leader Pays Visit to China

Australian Prime Minister Robert Hawke left China for home on May 24 after his six-day visit as guest of Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang. This was Hawke's second visit to China since he became Australian prime minister in 1983. His first trip to the country was in 1984.

During his stay in Beijing, Hawke conferred with Premier Zhao on international issues of common interest and the growth of bilateral relations, economic relations and trade in particular. Zhao said Australia was now the sixth major trading partner of China. He added there was no major conflict of interest whatsoever between China and Australia and that the prospects of bilateral co-operation were looking bright.

Hawke noted that the volume of trade between the two countries had grown enormously since the two met in 1983, when Premier Zhao visited Australia. "We are conscious of the fact that the

growth had been more pronounced in Australia's export trade with China than in our import trade," he said.

After giving an account of what Australia had done to increase imports from China, Hawke said the two countries had signed a number of contracts on Sino-Australian joint ventures and that still more agreements were under discussion.

It was disclosed after their meeting that China would invest US\$120 million in the construction of an aluminium smelter plant in Australia, making it China's largest overseas investment, according to an agreement signed in Beijing on May 20.

When the first two phases of the construction are completed, the total investment is expected to reach US\$1.2 billion, and the production capacity will be 300,000 tons of aluminium ingots a year.

On May 20, after meeting CPC Central Advisory Chairman Deng Xiaoping, Hawke and his party arrived in Chengdu, where they were greeted at the airport by Party General Secretary Hu Yaobang, who was on an inspection tour there.

While in Chengdu, Hawke visited the Xinxing Instruments Plant, a major project built during the period of the first Five-Year Plan (1953-57) which produces electronic computers and other products. The plant has introduced a multi-layer printed circuit board project from Australia recently.

Hawke and his party then went to see the pandas at the city zoo. The Chinese government agreed to lend a pair of pandas to Australia in January 1988, the 200th anniversary of the founding of the country.

The Chinese government will also send a delegation to attend celebrations there in 1988.

Before he returned home, Hawke also visited Nanjing in the company of General Secretary Hu.

SOUTH AFRICA

Raid Seen as Counter-Productive

The May 19 raids by South Africa on Zimbabwe, Botswana and Zambia prove that South Africa has become a grave threat to peace and security in Southern Africa.

South African air and ground forces launched almost simultaneous attacks on May 19 on alleged African National Congress (ANC) bases in or near the capitals of Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe, leaving at least three innocent people dead and 10 others wounded.

Before the attack, South African police found an arms cache in the west Rand mining area near Johannesburg. The cache included demolition mines, dynamite, plastic explosives, rocket-propelled grenade launchers and limpet mines.

At least nine people have died since November in a series of landmine explosions along South Africa's borders with Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

South Africa blamed the blasts on ANC guerrillas, who have been fighting to topple the apartheid system in South Africa for the past two decades. South Africa has claimed that the ANC has entered South Africa from neighbouring nations.

In the past two years Pretoria has been confronted with waves of black demonstrations, strikes and boycotts of classes and white-owned shops. It has relentlessly cracked down on the black protesters. More than 1,600 blacks have been killed in unabated racial unrest in the past 20 months. Despite the clampdown, the black struggle against apartheid is continuing, and South Africa has dug deeper and deeper into its quagmire.

In words South Africa has expressed a willingness to negoti-

ate with black leaders on the country's future and has even promised to grant the black majority limited political rights. But in deed it has refused to release ANC leader Nelson Mandela and lift the ban on the ANC.

The South African raids on its neighbours occurred while a Commonwealth delegation was shuttling between South Africa and ANC headquarters in Lusaka, Zambia, in an effort to mediate a settlement of South Africa's racial problem.

Botswanan President Quett Masire said the attack at Gaborone came four days before officials of the two countries were to confer on security problems.

The raids on alleged ANC bases show once again that Pretoria has no desire for a peaceful solution.

The South African authorities are attempting to intimidate neighbouring countries into withholding support for the South African blacks' struggle and to contain internal violence.

If that is their goal, the raids are futile. Veteran opposition lawmaker Nelen Suzman said, "The spectre of mighty power against defenceless neighbours does not go down very well." David Shandler, secretary of the anti-draft and conscription campaign, said, "It is madness to try and shoot our way out of the crisis in our country."

The raids have sparked strong worldwide condemnation. The victimized countries and other African countries have vowed to continue their support for the

South African blacks' struggle. Many countries have renewed their calls for international mandatory and comprehensive sanctions on Pretoria. Canada has recalled its ambassador from Pretoria as a protest against the South African raids. South Africa is more isolated than ever from the international community.

Zimbabwe Prime Minister Robert Mugabe said at a news conference that his country will step up moral, diplomatic and financial aid to black guerrillas fighting to end apartheid. "In fact," he said, "the time has come for us to call for more support to be given to the ANC and other liberation movements fighting in South Africa."

Masire said South Africa's wanton killings of innocent civilians only contributed to an escalation of violence that is likely to culminate in a brutal confrontation.

In an angry reaction to the raids, the ANC pledged it would mount a "most determined offensive" against South Africa. "The only way our people can respond is by intensifying the struggle at all levels, including the military," ANC spokesman Tom Sibena said.

South Africa's apartheid policy that suppresses the black majority politically and exploits them economically is the root cause of the racial strife engulfing South Africa.

Neither its clampdown on the black struggle within the country, nor its raids against its neighbours will serve South Africa's goal of defusing the tension and eliminating the liberation struggle of the South African blacks. There is only one way out for South Africa, and it is to dismantle the apartheid system and satisfy black demands for involvement in state affairs, full political rights and a democratic, united and non-racial South Africa.

by Yang Can

China Denounces South African Raid

China on May 20 strongly condemned South Africa for its armed raids on the capitals of Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia on the morning of May 19.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a statement that the attack was "a brutal act" and "a gross encroachment on the sovereignty and territories of the three independent states and wilful violation of the UN Charter and the norms governing international relations."

The raids, continued the spokesman, "constituted a fresh crime against the people of South Africa and the rest of Southern Africa. This again proves that the racist policy stubbornly pursued by the South African authorities is the root cause of disrupted peace and instability in Southern Africa."

He said the Chinese government and people are indignant about and sternly condemn the act of aggression

perpetrated by the South African authorities.

The spokesman said South African launched the raids on the three countries in an attempt to intimidate them and force them to end their support for the South African people. However, all such attempts would come to no avail, he said.

"We are convinced that whatever means the South African authorities may resort to, they can in no way prevent the South African people from developing their just struggle and the African people from supporting the South African people. The South African people are bound to win the final victory for their struggle," he said.

"The Chinese government and people will, as always, resolutely support the South African people in their just struggle against apartheid and for racial equality, and they will resolutely support Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia and other front-line African states in their just struggle to fight against South Africa's aggression and safeguard state sovereignty and territorial integrity," the spokesman said. ■

believe that Assad's latest statement has helped to relax the current tension.

The tripartite accord was signed by the "Amal" (Shi'ite Moslem) faction, the Socialist Progressive Party (Druze) and the Christian Lebanese Force.

Its main features were as follows:

—It called for an immediate ceasefire followed by the disbandment of the various militias within one year. It asked for Syrian troops to aid the official armies and security troops to resume peace and security.

—A new government would have been established immediately. During the 11-year interim period, a new constitution would be drafted in the first year, parliamentary election would be held after the third year and reforms in the division of power would get under way afterwards.

—During the interim period, the seats of the presidency, the speaker of parliament and prime minister would have still been held respectively by Christian Maronite, Islamic Shi'ite and Sunnis communities. But the president would no longer preside over cabinet meetings. Ministers of six major factions would form an inner cabinet and other cabinet posts would be divided among various religious communities proportionally. And the 108 parliamentary seats would have been equally divided between the Moslems and Christians. Other key seats in the government and army would have also been regulated according to population ratios.

—Lebanon and Syria would practise integration in the fields of diplomacy, politics, military affairs, internal security, economy, education and mass media.

But the tripartite accord triggered growing disagreements among Lebanese Christian leaders who claimed it violated Lebanese sovereignty and independence. Since President Amin Gemayel refused to sign it, it could not be

LEBANON

Tripartite Accord Crumbling to Pieces

High hopes sparked by the tripartite accord signed late last year have dimmed. And the alternative solutions are looking fairly bleak.

With the tripartite accord signed in Damascus at the end of last year having withered, all political factions in Lebanon have been making moves to find alternative methods to end the 11-year civil war there. On May 16, Samir Geagea, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Lebanese Forces declared that a blueprint for national solution had been drafted by a Christian joint committee set up two weeks ago. Although the details of its contents have not yet been disclosed as this is written, reports from Lebanon say that the

resolution firmly stands for dialogue between all Lebanese factions without interference from Syria.

The draft will be handed over to Christian leadership for endorsement before going to Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir prior to his upcoming trip to Rome.

A week before the draft was disclosed, Syrian President Hafez al-Assad said he did not mind amending the tripartite agreement, but he insisted that the Lebanese problem would not be resolved without Syria's help. Some political sources in Lebanon

put into practice. In January, the president flew to Damascus twice to discuss the accord with President Assad, all to no avail. Some of the Christian leaders, including President Gemayel, have asked for amendments in the accord, while others, particularly former president Camille Chamoun, strongly opposed the entire proposal. Meanwhile, contradictions between the Lebanese Forces and other Christian factions deepened. On January 15, Elie Hobeika, the chief of the Lebanese Forces and a signatory of the tripartite accord, was overthrown by a coup and forced into exile.

The tripartite accord thus fell to pieces. Lebanon once again was plunged into a serious political crisis. Moslem factions called for the resignation of President Gemayel, and the speaker of parliament, prime minister, Moslem ministers and parliamentarians all took a non-co-operative stand against the president. Amal leader Nabih Berri, Druze leader Walid Joumblatt, and another

former president Suleiman Franjia, formed a united front to build up political and military pressure against the president.

President Gemayel swept through a number of European and Arab countries in February seeking international support, so as to avert further crisis. Early in May, Syrian leaders met in Damascus with the leaders who had signed the tripartite accord there and discussed ways of breaking the stalemate.

Observers have indicated that the current Lebanese crisis is doomed to explode. The US attack on Libya last month raised a vindictive wave in Lebanon, which did not help the situation in the least. In the meantime, Israeli troops in southern Lebanon continue to harass the region and issue threats of war against Lebanon and Syria. Public opinion among Arabs expresses concern that Israel's position in southern Lebanon only continues to serve as another barrier to the fulfilment to peace in Lebanon.

by Zhu Mengkui

export subsidies have been recently cut by 1.8 percent, surplus grain is sold at a much lower price than the grain on sale on the international market. In 1984, 75 percent of the EC's budget—about US\$16 billion—went to agricultural subsidies. For the same year the United States' farm subsidies devoured US\$19 billion, compared with the average US\$3 billion per year in the 1970s. An additional US\$1.5 billion has been demanded in the United States for the next three years. Despite these efforts, the United States' agricultural exports to North Africa and the Middle East were 31 percent lower in 1985 than the figure in 1984.

Third world countries are crucial grain export markets for the United States and Western Europe. But, with steps taken to promote the growth of agriculture a number of traditional grain-importing countries have become self-sufficient, and some have even begun exporting grain, among them China, India, Thailand and Indonesia. Saudi Arabia, which used to import all its food, now has twice as much grain as it needs. The dwindling food market of the third world intensifies the struggle for its possession by the United States and Western Europe.

Besides the Western economic situation and certain factors in international politics, reasons which have depressed the world food market include diminished grain imports in some countries due to increased crop yield; the decrease in foreign revenues in some oil producing countries because of dropping oil prices; the food exports by some grain-deficient African countries in their desperate efforts to gain more foreign currencies.

Despite the saturation of some traditional grain markets, the potential demand for food remains high. Africa is still a food deficient area; North Africa and the Middle East import US\$30 billion worth of grain each year, and the Soviet Union is the

US-WESTERN EUROPE

Grain Exporters Face Off

A new trade war over farm produce has been waged between the United States and Western Europe, who are bickering bitterly over food exports.

At the ministerial meeting of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development recently held in Paris, the United States criticized Spain and Portugal for their trade policies. Before they joined the European Community (EC) on March 1, 1986, Spain bought 8 percent of America's maize exports, and Portugal, America's major soybean client, imported 15 percent of this exported grain. The new tariff policy by Spain and Portugal this March is expected to drain the

United States of several billion dollars each year in agricultural exports. As a result, Washington said it will impose restrictions on imports of West European farm produce unless the EC cancels import cuts or makes up for their losses. If enforced, the US threat will siphon US\$1 billion from the EC export earnings each year, with France being the most badly wounded. The EC, however, has accepted the challenge by preparing a counterattack.

On the EC markets, where grain

world's largest grain importer and bought 55 million tons of grain in 1984 alone.

The struggle between the United States and Western Europe is expected to mount since

there is no hope for an early improvement of the international grain market. ■

by Xu Qiang

ARFICA

Population Control Urged

The five-day All-Africa Parliamentary Conference recently ended with a declaration calling on African governments to devise family-planning programmes that will take a slice out of the region's high population growth rates.

The problem of inordinate population growth has been the focus of much attention around the world. At the five-day All-Africa Parliamentary Conference, held from May 12 to 16 in Zimbabwe's capital, Harare, African leaders tried to tackle this pressing issue.

A declaration adopted by the conference urged the African governments "to help attain a balance between the needs and opportunities of our people on the one hand and the available resources on the other."

It warned that the current population growth rates of about 3 percent on the continent can offset the achievement in realizing the economic and social goals of the African nations.

In order to solve the population problem, parliamentarians and experts called at the conference for conducting population and family life education within and outside schools.

The declaration also called for efforts to achieve self-sufficiency in food production in Africa, protect the environment and improve the social status of women through increased educational and employment opportunities.

The conference decided to set up a permanent Council of African Parliamentarians on

Population and Development to continue mobilizing national, continental and global support for population and development issues in Africa and monitor implementation of the declarations adopted at this and other conference on population and development held within and outside Africa.

In the 1920s Africa had a population of less than 200 million. This was in part the result of colonialism and the slave trade. After the early 1960s, however, when many African countries began gaining their independence, population there started growing rapidly. In the early 1980s, the African population reached more than 450 million.

The figures rose to 553 million by the end of 1985. The yearly growth rate in 1985 reached 3 percent. At the same time, the world's yearly population growth rate was only 1.7 percent. It is estimated by experts that the African population will double within the next 25 years, reaching 900 million by the year 2000.

There are many reasons for the continent's intemperate population growth. After independence, many African countries encouraged child bearing in order to augment the labour force for their developing economies. Also contributing to the rapid growth were

customs that encouraged polygamy and early marriages. In addition, to many poor Africans whose families function as economic units, children are a resource. And, because medical care has improved, the infant mortality and early death rates have dropped. Also, many African countries have not taken a census for years and have let their populations grow out of control.

Despite the numbers of people, population density in Africa is not high, for there are only 15 people for every square kilometre, much lower than the world average. Africa accounts for 22 percent of the world's area, while its population is only about 11 percent. The continent's economic basis, however, is rather weak.

The combination of a high population growth rate and low economic growth means that most Africans still live destitute lives. Among the world's 36 most underdeveloped nations, 25 are in Africa.

High population growth has proven to be a serious obstacle to African economic development. Its grain output has increased much slower than the population, leaving many areas severely food-deficient. In normal harvest years, 80 percent of Africa is not self-sufficient in grain and they have no alternative but to spend their foreign exchange for grain. Some have even taken out loans to import grain.

There are too many young people, leaving many unemployed. And, education has also suffered.

Many African countries have realized the cause of the problem and have begun seeking ways to control their populations. Nigeria, Libya, Rwanda, Malawi and other African countries have begun to encourage population control. Though some governments provide free contraceptives, religious and cultural habits make their use unpopular. ■

by Yang Rusheng



Battle Against Barren Land

The United Nations Pitches In

by Our Correspondent Han Baocheng

Quzhou County, located 170 km southeast of the capital of Hebei Province, Shijiazhuang, began a desalinization project with the aid of the Agricultural Development Fund (ADF) and the World Food Programme (WFP) of the United Nations at the end of 1982. The results of the programme are now visible.

As a result of the programme, the seriously salinized land has been reduced from 11,000 hectares to 6,000 hectares, and irrigated land has been extended from 6,000 hectares to 13,000 hectares. Further proof of the effectiveness of the project is that the area's total grain output between 1983 and 1985 rose 63.77 percent over

The UN aid is a major contributing factor to Quzhou's big changes. Large tracts of saline land of the old days are now lush with green wheat fields.

that of the three years before the project began. Last year, the area's

per-capita income reached 308 yuan, which was slightly higher than the county's average and double its 1982 figure.

The area under treatment, which three years ago was dry and barren, is now lush with green wheat fields that stretch to the horizon, and is a sharp contrast to the desolate land that surrounds it.

Impoverished Soil

According to Quzhou County records, land in this area has had a heavy salt content for at least 2,000 years. Of the 20,000 hectares of arable land north of the county, 16,000 hectares are seriously saline. Because of the large dose of salt in the soil, the local residents have processed salt as a sideline since ancient times. The sporadic rainfall in the region worsened Quzhou's problem, resulting in alternate drought and flooding. The poor environment stymied the agricultural production and left Quzhou with a reputation as one of the province's poorest spots. In 1978, the county's per-capita annual income was only 49.5 yuan and people there had to rely on state relief for a living.

In 1973, professors and students from the Beijing Agriculture University opened a saline soil amelioration experiment station in Quzhou. However, for want of funds and facilities, they could only conduct their experiments on a very limited scale.

Rural workers digging an irrigation canal.



With the advance of the rural reforms which began in 1979, the farmers' desire to improve their farming conditions and their incomes has become even stronger. Given this, officials of the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fishery approached the United Nations, which agreed in 1982 to provide Quzhou and Nanpi, another of the province's impoverished counties, with a loan and food aid to help them treat 34,000 hectares of saline land. The term of co-operation was agreed to be 37 months and was arranged through the ADF and WFP.

for 11.2 million workdays during the project period, as compensation for the labour contributed by the local people. The food ration (for each workday it is 3 kg of wheat and 50 grammes of edible oil) and the freight charge covered by WFP totalled US\$8 million.

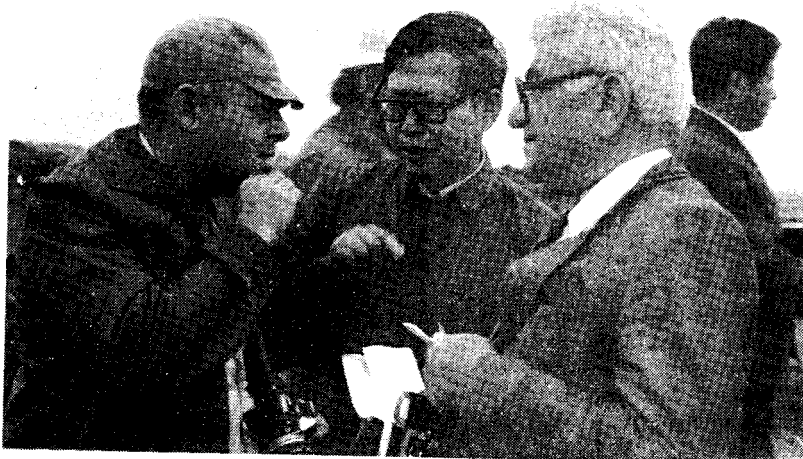
WFP uses food aid to encourage progress in developing nations. Since 1979, it has signed 37 agreements with the Chinese government on co-operative projects in China. These projects have involved soil improvement, irrigation works, afforestation, fish farming and dairy production. The entire assistance provided by

projects, as well as office expenses and fees for all raw materials, equipment and other expenses needed by the projects. By the end of 1985, the Chinese government has spent US\$7.81 million on the soil improvement and irrigation projects in the two counties.

Chen Jiayang, deputy head of the project administrative office, said WFP's contribution is valuable. "Although China has improved its agricultural production in recent years," Chen said, "in general its agriculture is still backward, and it lacks the money required to develop the poor areas. WFP's material assistance to the two project areas in these two counties is very timely indeed."

To ensure the smooth advance of the project, the Chinese side has set up a complete administrative system. A special organization in charge of the project is established at each administrative level down to the township, and a manager in charge of the project is appointed at each villagers' committee, the grass-roots administrative organ in the rural areas. The county project administrative office is the key link for the implementation and management of the project.

Lu Qinxiang, deputy head of Quzhou County and director of the project administrative office, explained the details of the project: "The soil desalinization plan was proposed by professors of the Beijing Agriculture University. They suggested we leach the salt from the soil by digging wells and canals, building bridges, planting trees, and levelling farmland. After their blueprint was adopted, the water conservancy project bureau, the electric power supply bureau, the forest bureau and other specialized bureaus under the county government undertook the design, surveying and construction of each of the sub-projects according to their special responsibilities. Since the project began, its progress has not been hindered by such problems as low quality or inadequate supplies.



SU ZHIYING

A professor from the Beijing Agricultural University (centre) discussing a desalinization project with foreign specialists.

Efficient Co-operation

The ADF first decided to provide the project with a loan of US\$25 million, with an annual interest rate of 4 percent and a grace period of eight years. Although the terms are favourable, the two counties found the repayment plan a burden. If the project were a success, area residents reasoned, it still would not be as profitable as an industrial project. The WFP therefore decided to provide food

WFP is equivalent to US\$400 million. All the projects were proposed and carried out by the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fishery, while WFP sent officials and specialists to conduct project feasibility studies.

Apart from covering the charges on transport, storage and labour after the WFP-provided commodities arrive in China, the Chinese government also pays the salaries to all administrators and technicians participating in the



WFP sent officials to examine and approve the project section by section, and the food and vegetable oil rations were provided according to the workdays completed."

The county food grains bureau, which is in charge of the distribution of food and vegetable oil ration, has set aside food and oil in stock, for the project. It has also set up a management group composed of accountants and shopkeepers who keep separate account books.

After inspecting the Quzhou and Nanpi projects in April 1984, Salahuddin Ahmed, WFP's deputy executive director, said the Chinese people understand very well the relationship between man and nature. The farmers are enthusiastic about treating their soil, he said, and local intellectuals and farmers have worked well together. He said he had also noticed the results of measures

taken by the Chinese government.

Jan Brown, another WFP official, said in her report after inspecting the project: "All food stores [for WFP commodities] and distribution centres I visited appeared to be well managed and all records in good order."

Convincing Figures

After three years' efforts, the conditions for crop growth in Quzhou and Nanpi have shown initial improvement. In the Quzhou project area, for instance, 2.79 million cubic metres of stone and earth work has been completed, 967 bridges, tunnels and water gates built, 688 deep power-driven and ordinary wells dug, 538 kg of high- and low-voltage transmission lines installed, 20,000 hectares of nurseries and trees planted, 6,000

hectares of farmland levelled and more than 1,000 hectares of wasteland reclaimed.

Lu Qinxiang said though it was not the UN assistance alone that caused these changes, the UN support, however, was a major contributing factor. In the future, he said, after residents in his county become affluent, they would like to contribute food aid to other developing countries through WFP.

Currently, the project is winding up. To ensure that the project will continue to work efficiently, the county government has worked out management measures and annual maintenance plans. Hebei Province has 467,000 hectares of saline land like that in Quzhou, and the entire North China Plain south of Beijing has more than 3 million hectares of such poor land. Treating salinity remains, therefore, an enormous task for China's farmers.

WFP Director on UN Food Aid

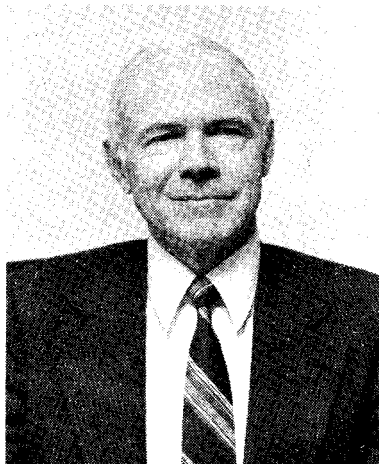
At the invitation of He Kang, minister of agriculture, animal husbandry and fishery, James Charles Ingram, executive director of the United Nations' World Food Programme, recently visited China. During his visit, he met with Premier Zhao Ziyang and other Chinese government officials. He also answered *Beijing Review's* questions concerning UN aid to developing nations and China in particular.

Question: What are the functions of the World Food Programme?

Answer: WFP was established by parallel resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on December 19, 1961. It began as a three-year experimental programme, with headquarters in Rome, Italy, to see whether surplus food could be used as an investment for economic and social development, to meet emergency food needs, and to promote world food security.

WFP's activities are supported entirely with voluntary contributions pledged biennially by donor governments. In 1985 more than 90 countries contributed to the programme's activities. WFP is the food-aid arm of the United Nations system. It gives priority to agricultural development aimed at

James C. Ingram.



increasing food production, to rural development or to nutritional improvement for vulnerable groups— young children and nursing mothers. WFP is also a humanitarian programme providing emergency food assistance for the victims of natural or man-made disasters.

Q: Why did WFP choose China as one of its recipient countries?

A: We chose China because it is the most populous country in the world, and it has a large number of people who are very poor. Your government is committed to helping the poor, and your government feels WFP can help it. So we feel China is a very suitable country for the programme which will assist tens of millions of poor people whose per-capita annual incomes are less than 120 yuan and who consume less than 200 kg of food grain a year per person. We support what we call low-income food-deficit countries. China is self-sufficient at a very low

level of nutrition. The diet of the Chinese people is lacking in animal products—milk, meat and so on. Indeed, China's consumption of dairy products probably is the lowest in the world. The figures you gave show clearly that China comes into that category of low-income food-deficit countries.

Q: What is your impression of the co-operative projects during your visit in China?

A: I had a very good impression indeed. The projects are very well planned. One of the projects we visited is in Hongze County to the north of Nanjing, capital of Jiangsu Province. It is for fishery development and is very successful. The fourth largest freshwater lake in China, Lake Hongze had thousands of families living on it. The purpose of the project is to resettle very poor people living on boats. It involves the construction of fish ponds, schools and houses, and fish processing facilities. So it has been very well conceived, in the development point of view. It is very well managed and is bringing in very impressive results. I talked with some of the fishermen and their incomes now are three times as high as when they were on the lake.

Q: What other assistance projects does WFP plan to conduct in China this year?

A: What we conceive to do with food aid is not only to help improve the nutritional circumstances of the poor people but to use the food as an incentive to the beneficiaries to engage in productive work of one kind or another.

In 1986 we expect to have three projects. One of them is the development of fish production in Jiangxi Province around the Poyang Lake; another is the construction of forests and soil amelioration in Hebei Province; and the third one is for aquaculture development. That is again fish farming around a number of major cities—Changchun, Nanjing, Hefei, Changsha, Xian, Kunming, Yinchuan and Hohhot. I must emphasize we are only recommending these projects, and that they depend on the approval of the inter-government body that is responsible for these projects.

Q: How do you think developing nations can establish closer co-operative relations with developed nations through the programme?

A: WFP draws its resources from both developed and developing

countries. China is going to contribute US\$1.2 million to us in 1987 and 1988. Of course the large developed countries are the main contributors. The co-operation of governments undertaking projects and supporting projects is a very good way to promote international co-operation. WFP is under the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, which has 30 developed countries and 70 developing countries as members. The WFP-assisted projects approve unanimously. I believe that it is possible sometimes to get assistance like this on a bilateral basis. It is more valuable if it comes on multilateral basis because it then promotes co-operation between many countries, and not just between two.



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Child Care in Fujian: Gardeners and Flowers

by Our Correspondent Ding Yaolin

China's 330 million children now younger than 14 will have become the country's leading labour force by the end of this century. Therefore, how they are brought up and educated today will have a direct bearing on China's future.

Before leaving Beijing for Fujian Province, I learnt from the All-China Women's Federation that this coastal province in the southeast was one of the most

backward in China, but had made much headway in recent years in the development of programmes for children. This is evident everywhere I have visited — maternity hospitals, health centres, kindergartens, nurseries, factories, villages, schools and many families in the capital city of Fuzhou, the Xiamen Special Economic Zone, the Zhangzhou Prefecture and Putian and Longhai counties.

at the 1970 rate without any birth control effort, about 1.8 million more babies, or the population of several counties, would have been born in the last five years.

Currently, the government population policy stipulates that one couple can have only one child and should be discouraged from having a second and absolutely prevented from having a third. To meet the one-child goal, however, the province still had much to do, especially in rural areas where the introduction of new economic measures is stimulating the people's enthusiasm for prosperity through hard work and had kindled their desire to have more children. In the vegetable producing Liming Village in suburban Fuzhou, the annual per-capita income of 3,000 yuan (about US\$1,000) has overshadowed the one-child programme despite the village's regulation of fining parents 1,000 yuan for unplanned second births.

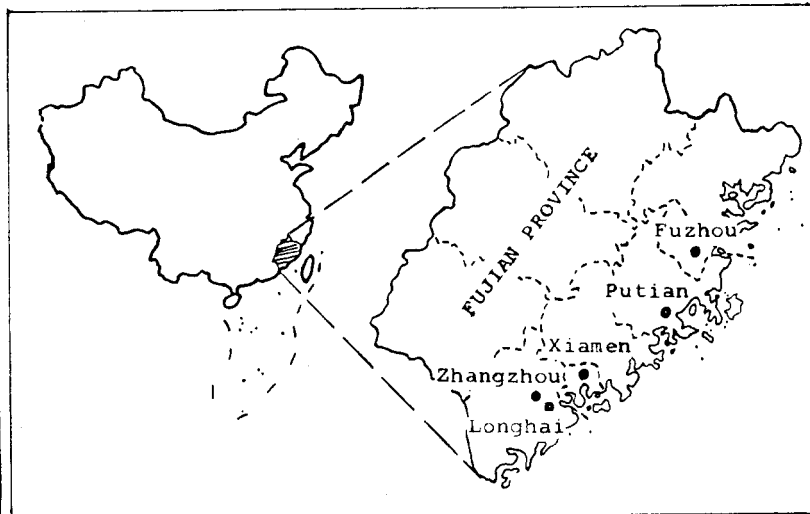
The provincial family-planning authorities estimate that about 50,000 new births went unreported in Fujian every year. City dwellers, however, are more birth-control conscious, following the one-child

Healthy Birth, Good Upbringing

In attempts to curb its rapid population growth, the Chinese government has placed special emphasis on raising healthy offspring by strengthening its maternity and child-care services.

According to the Fujian family-planning authorities, the province

lags behind other parts of the nation in birth control, ranking 20th on the list of birth rate and natural growth rate in China. Compared with its past, however, the province has made much progress in recent years. If the province's population had grown



Fujian: Facts & Figures

Population: 26 million
Children younger than 14: 9 million (2.9 million younger than 7)
Area: 120,000 square kilometres
Capital: Fuzhou
Counties (cities): 78



Kids lining up for their inoculations.

LUO ZHONGFAN

China's Maternity and Child Care in 1985

Children's hospitals:	26
Maternity and children's medical centres:	239
Maternity and children's clinics:	2,734
Hospital beds for children:	92,000
Pediatricians:	34,000

The National Mortality Rate

	Pregnant women	Infants
1950	15 per 1,000	200 per 1,000
1985	0.5 per 1,000	20-25 per 1,000

programme more closely. Obviously, the point for population control lies not in the execution of administrative mandates and economic sanctions, but rather, in how to broaden the people's cultural knowledge and change their traditional thinking that more children help to build prosperity.

The province has recently built a 400-bed maternity and children's medical centre. It is the largest of its kind in the province and one of the top seven maternity and children's medical training centres in China. The centre is fully

equipped with state-of-the-art technology to detect birth defects and abnormalities in pregnancy. It also offers pre-marriage checkups, geneology checks and other health services. As a result, the systematical pre- and post-natal examinations have greatly reduced the mortality rate of both pregnant women and infants.

Yu Jianhua, a maternity and children's health-care worker in the 1950s and now director of the province's Maternity and Child Health Guidance Institute, recalled that in the 1950s when the traditional midwifery was common, some midwives never cared to disinfect their surgical instruments. Pregnant women in some areas were forced to give birth in barns or isolated places because delivering the baby was seen as ominous to the whole family. As a result, many pregnant women and infants died of fevers and umbilical tetanus, with the death

rate running as high as 13 percent and 20 percent respectively.

Today, 97.6 percent of the province's children have been born under a new midwifery programme. Even in remote areas, midwives have received special training and have discarded their outdated, traditional techniques. In addition, the province's nursing schools have turned out many groups of midwives to reinforce maternity and child health services.

Many schools for newlyweds and pregnant women have been established throughout the province. In the schools for newlyweds, for example, the young couple receives a two-week training in physiological health and birth-control practices. Whereas the schools for pregnant women teach both the wife and husband how to examine the position and movement of the foetus to detect possible problems and get help. Pre-marriage and pre-natal checkups are also popular in the province. In 1982 when China took its third population census, the province's infant mortality rate stood at 2 percent, while in 1985 the centre gave smooth deliveries to more than 3,000 babies, with no deaths.

During the past baby boom, Yu said, two pregnant women had to share one bed or crowd onto makeshift beds. Beginning this year, partly because of the construction of the centre, and because the baby boom has declined, there have been enough beds to go around for the expectant mothers.

The delivery costs between 6 and 12 yuan, while hospitalization fee is 3 yuan each day, not including meals, and both fees are to be covered by the women's employer. A working woman has 56 to 70 days of maternity leave with full pay in China today. In recent years the state's regulations for maternity care have provided for a six-month to 12-month leave on 75 percent to 80 percent of the original pay.

Facts and Figures — Child Care in Fujian Province

Year	Total number of infants and children	Percentage of infants and children in nurseries and kindergartens	Total number of nurseries and kindergartens	Total number of nurses and teachers
1979	3,743,148	10.0%	9,811	13,284
1980	3,452,254	15.6%	13,575	20,733
1981	3,301,691	15.1%	12,227	20,522
1982	3,100,000	17.0%	12,203	21,522
1983	3,095,000	18.5%	13,421	23,966
1984	2,945,620	22.2%	16,020	26,272
1985	2,588,470	27.13%	21,450	30,171

Three to five days after delivery, the mother and baby are dismissed, the centre will offer periodic checkups and, in some cases, send doctors to the family until the baby is old enough for kindergartens.

The 'Cold Chain'

China has made achievements in children's medical care. In its 214 counties, or about 10 percent of the total, the six most infectious diseases — polio, diphtheria,

whooping cough, tetanus, measles and tuberculosis — have been brought under control through vaccinations for all children. No incidence of polio has appeared in 83.5 percent of China's counties; the incidence of diphtheria has disappeared in 79.2 percent of the counties and cities; and the incidence of whooping cough and measles has dropped considerably.

A contributing factor to the drop of diseases is the "cold chain." This project, co-sponsored by China and

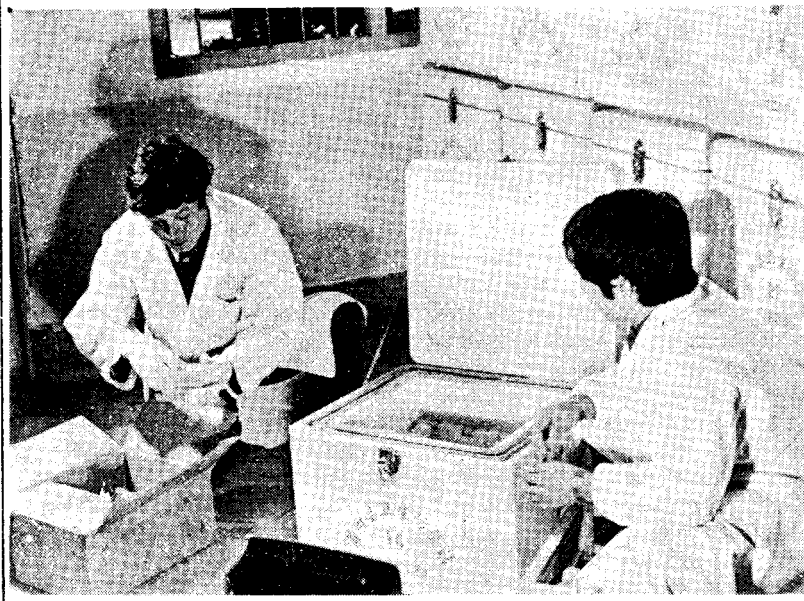
UNICEF, refers to the advanced facilities for storing and transporting vaccines. By 1989, China will have put in 75 million yuan (about US\$25 million) and UNICEF will put forward US\$4.7 million towards the programme in China.

Fujian Province's Putian County is known nationally for its cold chain immunity network. The county's immunity network is established on three levels. At the first level is the County Health and Anti-epidemic Station which has five members responsible for immunity programming, personnel training and preparation of immunity textbooks. It is also responsible for vaccine storage and distribution. In the station, there are two cold-storage tanks that keep the temperature at minus 18 C° and minus 30 C° respectively. In addition, it has a dozen refrigerators and half a dozen fast freeze ice boxes and many refrigeration bags. The station is also furnished with two cold-storage trucks and 32 frozen vaccine transportation containers.

At the middle level is the township health centres. Ye Yuantao, director of the Xitianwei Health Centre, said his centre was responsible for medical care, anti-epidemic services, birth control and the health of 38,500 people in 17 villages. Each of the county's 26 township health centres has two to four persons responsible for the cold chain and one or two refrigerators for vaccines.

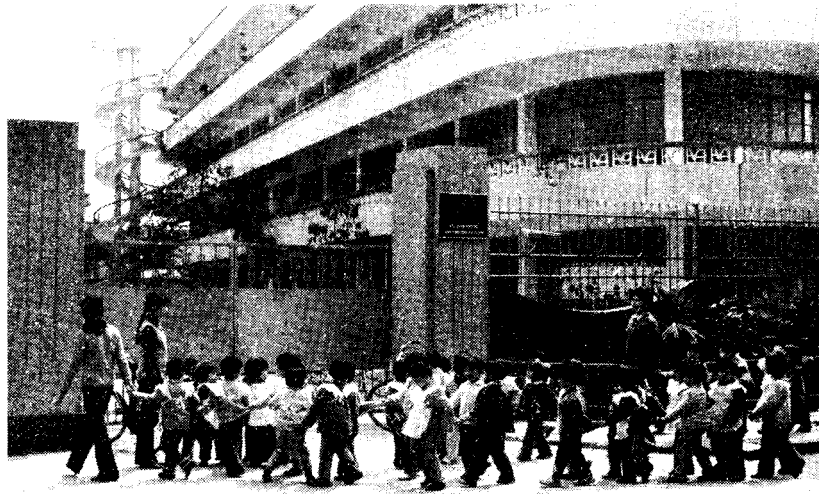
The Putian County Health and Anti-Epidemic Station preparing vaccines.

LUO ZHONGFAN



At the bottom level is the village clinic. The county's 596 village clinics, each with one or two refrigeration bags, are responsible for the whole village's inoculation programme. The village clinic, staffed with paramedics, is equipped with a pharmacy and necessary medical apparatus.

As soon as the county health and anti-epidemic station receives vaccines from its higher authorities, it calls on the village clinic through the township health centre to take vaccines back to the village. The rural paramedic usually gives the injections the same day or next morning.



Kids from the Shiyan Kindergarten taking a walk.

FENG LISHA

Happy Flowers' Carefree Life

The Chinese government has always given much attention to the education of children in a country where people always consider their little ones as flowers that deserve the care by all of society.

Before the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, Fujian Province had only 21 kindergar-

tens accommodating 5,000 children. Today, 27 percent of the province's 2.9 million infants and children are taken care of in nurseries and kindergartens. During my stay there, I visited dozens of nurseries and kindergartens, both public and privately owned. One of my most surprising discoveries was the way the healthy and cheerful children were

dressed — It seems parents are no longer pinching pennies when it comes to their kids' wardrobes.

One of the finest day-care centres in the province is the Shiyan, or experimental, Kindergarten in Fuzhou. The building is shaped like an old battleship in which the kindergarten home to 370 children in 10 classes. Each class has its own naproom, wardrobe, activity room and toilet. On the fifth floor is a small auditorium where the children put on performances. On the roof stand solar energy facilities, which supply hot showers for the kids.

Zhangzhou Sugar Refinery's Kindergarteners show off their dancing talents.

FENG LISHA



Meals are nutritiously balanced and before meals each child is given several slices of pork liver to avoid anaemia. Each activity room is colourfully decorated with picture posters and paintings, with one corner devoted to games. The piano is still something beyond the reach of most kindergartens, and accordions are used to aid music teaching. But the Shiyan Kindergarten has 11 pianos. All the costs of the day-care centre are covered by the local government. Public kindergartens such as this one make up 15 percent of the total in China's urban areas.

The city of Zhangzhou, known for its enormous sugar refinery, is also making a name for itself with one of its nurseries, cited as one of

the best in the province, with all expenditures covered by the factory. The workers' children between four and a half months old are taken care of first in the nursery and then in the kindergarten until the kids reach primary school age.

The children are raised in somewhat of a scientific manner. Yang Lizhu, director of the Zhangzhou Maternity and Children's Health Institute, is currently at the factory giving health and education guidance. She said that during her first round of physicals in 1982, she found that 90 percent of the children suffered from anaemia, abnormal growth affected more than 60 percent, and seven children suffered from rickets. Investigation revealed that the nursery did not fully understand nutrition requirements and had failed to provide the proper foods to each age group. The result was that smaller children were not physically strong enough to digest their food, even if it was nutritious.

Yang then prescribed three separate menus, depending on age and raised the food fees of the youngest group from 12 yuan to 18 yuan a month. In only one year the results have been quite remarkable. Children growing at standard rates rose to 70 percent while the percentage of those suffering from anaemia dropped to 12.

The nursery follows hard and fast rules to monitor the children's health. For example, the nursery requires its doctors to stand by the entrance every morning to give the children a looking over, and to weigh and check the height of each child regularly. If a child is found to have an infectious disease, he is placed in a quarantine ward. The children's dishes, toys and other daily articles are sterilized. All bedrooms are regularly disinfected by using ultraviolet lamps.

The factory and nursery have had no incidence of infectious

diseases for a year now. More than 82 percent of the children meet the government health standards. And throughout China today, these factory-run nurseries and kindergartens represent 27 percent of the total in urban areas.

The kindergarten in Liming Village, five kilometres outside of Fuzhou, is run collectively by farmers. Its three-storey brick building, creatively decorated on the inside like a fairy paradise, stands among clusters of roses. As it was raining on the day I visited, children were doing their exercises or dancing in the corridor.

This village has greatly prospered in the past years. All the



FENG LISHA

Wu Yan and her maternal grandfather.

500,000 yuan used to construct the kindergarten was pooled by the villagers. The kindergarten teachers are paid the same wages as the village workers and farmers each month—50 yuan. At the end of the year, they receive a dividend from the village's collective economy.

Taking a look at some of the classes at the kindergarten, I heard kids in one classroom singing to the accompaniment of an accordion, while another class was listening intently to a story. Much to my surprise, two classes were filled with kids studying English. A young teacher said the kindergarten recently began teaching simple English vocabulary and sentences to 4- and 5-year-olds.

Kindergartens financed by rural collectives like this account for 59 percent of the total in China's rural areas.

In sharp contrast to these well-established kindergartens is the Huaxiang Kindergarten run by a district government in Fuzhou. It has 10 classes and 484 children, and each class has only a small room where nearly 50 children are jammed in for meals, games and to nap on makeshift beds. The expenses are covered partly by the district government's allocations and partly by parent fees. Tight for money, the kindergarten doesn't see much hope for expansion in the near future.

However, the kindergarten fares well when it comes to education. In co-operation with parents, some 20-odd experienced teachers are engaged in bringing up the kids to be well-behaved and healthy. Though crowded, the kindergarten is cited as the best in the city. Kindergartens of this sort make up about 12 percent of the total in China's urban areas.

Statistics have shown that in 1985 Fujian Province has 2,176 kindergartens run by individuals or households, accounting for 10 percent of the total in urban areas throughout China.

The town of Shima, one of four major towns in Longhai County, is known for its individual-run kindergartens. There are 102 child-care groups, 22 nurseries and 11 day-care centres, all run by households or individuals. As a result, all the town's children between the ages of 4 and 6 and infants 1 to 3 years old are taken care of in these facilities.

Nurses and teachers are employed by what is called the "invitation method." They have to meet strict requirements on age (younger than 28), educational background (senior middle school education or higher) and health. And they have to come up with their own place for the nursery or kindergarten.



Needlework starts at an early age for these little girls.

FENG LISHA

Hou Xiaojuan, 20, graduated from senior middle school in 1983. After receiving training in preschool child care in Shima, she opened a day-care centre on her own. She is fond of the arts, plays the violin, and thus brings these special qualities to her little ones.

All her family members support her, though some of her schoolmates tried to dissuade her from becoming a children's bellwether, as they believe there is no future in changing diapers all day. But Hou sees it differently. "I feel very happy to be a babysitter, it's very important and honourable."

She accepts all babies from her community and charges 5 and a half yuan for each baby every month to cover care fees. She uses about 2 and a half yuan for snacks and supplies and keeps the remaining 3 yuan as her income.

Kindergarten fees are very low in China. The combination of tuition, care and food is no more than 25 yuan a month. The government subsidizes 12 yuan a month for the child of the average

white-collar workers if the child is cared for by a kindergarten.

The government also stipulates that each day-care or kindergarten class has no more than 25 children and a class of preschool children has no more than 30. Unfortunately, however, because of housing shortage, most kindergar-

tens do not meet these conditions. Hou's day-care centre, for example, doubles the limitation. In addition, the number of child-care workers and their cultural background fall far short of the requirements. China now has more than 400,000 child-care teachers, only 11 percent of whom have received special training. In some areas, quite a number of child-care workers are old, in poor health or poorly educated. Obviously, these drawbacks tend to affect the education and health care of the children.

In recent years, however, the Fujian provincial authorities have tried to upgrade the age composition and educational background of the child-care workers. They have expanded two training schools for child-care workers, and their counties have established 152 child-care training classes around the province. By the end of last year, the province had more than 30,000 child-care teachers who averaged 35 years old. Of that figure, 16 percent had graduated from special training courses on child care and at least 27,000 had attended some sort of child-care classes.

It's raining outside, but that doesn't stop these little soccer players.

FENG LISHA



A Generation's Hard Work

In the 1950s China took great pains to develop the child-care service for the convenience of the growing number of working mothers. Today, people have come to realize the importance of training personnel through long-term efforts. Under such circumstances, the education of children has not only become a matter of concern to parents and grandparents, but has captured the attention of educators and society as a whole.

considered brilliant, though in fact her talent is partially due to early education by her parents and grandparents. Her father, a university lecturer, and her mother, a child psychology researcher, discovered her incredibly fine memory when she was a little more than one year old. The couple then decided to cram as much knowledge as possible into their little girl, beginning with Chinese, foreign

kindergarten has nurtured many famous Chinese musicians, including Yin Chengzong, a gifted pianist who has won international acclaim. The kindergarten has been attaching importance to pre-school education ever since its inception. Today one-third of its 400 children are learning to play the piano or violin and to sing with a chorus. Embroidery, knitting and gardening are also part of the curriculum. It has even invited a soccer coach to train budding stars.

When asked if the intensity of these courses would constitute a psychological burden on these kids, Xu Liqing, who has been working at the day-care centre since 1951 and is president today, said while there is the question of "overloading" a child, she has seen only proof to the contrary.

Xu displayed some of the embroidery and paintings of the kids. I also observed a music recital and the football class and found all the kids in high spirit.

Xu then told me her nursery discovered that those kids who were advancing in foreign language were the very ones taking piano. "This is proof that the wisdom of children comes out of their finger tips," Xu noted.



Parents learning how to bring up their little ones.

FENG LISHA

Pre-School Education

Many pre-school education specialists believe that an early intellectual development of children, and the cultivation of good manners and moral characters in them are an important factor determining their lifetime careers.

A case in point is 7-year-old Wu Yan, who is able to speak three foreign languages and recite many classic poems and is currently studying junior middle school algebra. The girl, who lives in Zhangzhou, Fujian Province, is

languages and then simple mathematics. To arouse her interest in study, they subscribed to more than 20 children's publications from China and other countries. They also put her under the tutorage of her paternal grandfather, a writer, and her maternal grandfather, a doctor. It was under these conditions that little Wu became a child prodigy.

The Sunshine Kindergarten is located on Gulangyu Island in Xiamen, a coastal city called the "home of music." The 88-year-old

Schools for Parents

According to recent statistics, family education research societies are mushrooming in more than 20 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions across the nation. Many primary schools and kindergartens have also set up their own schools for parents to learn how to better educate their kids. The establishment of these parenting schools is based on growing concern over discrepancies among the children with respect to intelligence and moral character.

Longhai County was the first in the province to set up a family education association. And today,

research branches and parenting schools have been set up in all the county's towns, villages, factories, schools and neighbourhoods. The parenting schools are well organized, complete with their own rules and regulations. Both husbands and wives are expected to attend regular lectures and study family education manuals compiled specially for them. The parents are reminded they also serve as an educator to their kids, not only as parents. As a result, many parents have learnt why and how they should provide proper education for their children in close co-ordination with society and schools. In the past, many parents asked their children to begin to read and write at four or five years old and then kept them shut in home to study. But the new philosophy at these parenting schools helps them understand the theory that "all work and no play will make their children dull" and that games and recreation is an integral part of education. Some parents also are having second thoughts about the traditional spoil-and-spank upbringing and are coming to realize that discipline problems are best handled through words.

Compulsory Education

The Chinese government is currently preparing for the implementation of its decision on the popularization of the nine-year compulsory education plan in China. Already 21 of the 29 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions have worked out their own plans to carry out the state plan.

According to Zheng Chongyi, director of the primary education section of the Provincial Education Department, the province had managed to popularize elementary education by 1985, with each of the 16,336 villages having at least one primary school. Zheng said even in the

isolated, backward Longyan Prefecture in western Fujian, more than 95 percent of the school-age children are attending schools today; the rate is 87 percent in the Ningde prefecture, where 802 primary schools have been set up among the 2,000 mountainous villages.

However, there are still many barriers facing the nine-year compulsory education plan before its deadline by 1990. In spite of the state and provincial allocations for the development of primary and middle school education, more money is needed to supplement today's low salaries for teachers and to build more school houses. Furthermore, the implementation of the state plan calls for 2 million more teachers in China.

To solve the problem, the provincial government plans to seek donation from the people. Overseas Chinese who are natives of Fujian Province are expected to donate 20 to 30 million yuan a year. Meanwhile, the provincial government plans to set up more teachers' schools. In the last few years, Fujian has set up 22 such schools, which enrol about 6,000 students annually.

Another obstacle standing in the way of the development of education in the province is the considerable dropout rate. According to a sample survey of the 138,000 families throughout the country conducted by the State Statistical Bureau, of the 106,000 school-age children, 6.2 percent of the kids have quit primary schools. Their main reason for dropping out is that their families are short of help in the home on the farm or in the family business. And some of the factories recruit seasonal workers, Zheng Chongyi said, which has fueled a wave of dropouts among the female students.

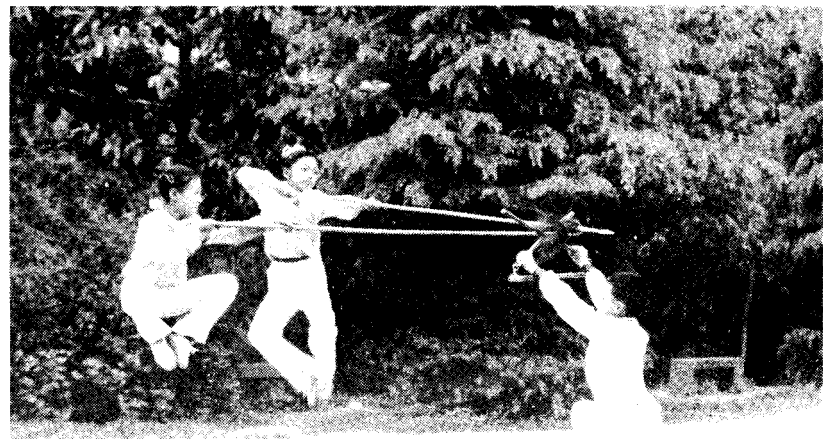
"Given the situation, the state decision on the popularization of compulsory education is absolutely the only thing," Zheng said.

After-Class Activity

The Fuzhou Experimental Primary School is today considered a model of educational reform in Fujian Province. It provides the best education for children in the province and parents frantically compete to get their kids in.

The Shiyan Primary School in Fuzhou even has its own martial arts team.

LI ZHENRONG



Development of Education in Fujian

Year	Teachers and staff	Number of primary schools	Number of students (million)	Popularization rate (%)	Provincial population (million)
1949	17,600	4,600	0.46	16	23.0
1985	169,000	26,000	3.7	97.33	26.0



FENG LISHA

Kids are deeply engrossed in their studies at the Xiamen Children Library.

The school was set up in the late 1920s. Its current principal is Cai Yazhu, a 1961 graduate of a teachers' school. She said her success comes from efforts made to combine intellect with application — to apply what they have learnt. While giving full play to the guidance of the teachers, the pupils here are encouraged to become masters of their own study.

The school has also pioneered what they call the "second classroom," that is, a variety of after-school activities. Cai said this was aimed at offering the opportunity for the pupils to discover their other hidden talents. Now about 44 percent of the kids are involved in more than 20 specialized clubs and activities. One such group is the Qixun Literary Society, composed of 36 pupils. In the last two years, they have published more than 60

pieces of prose, poems, and fairy tales. Once a visiting foreigner dubbed them China's "society of young writers."

Other special clubs include a 120-member choir which has won awards at singing competitions at the municipal and national levels. Xie Jia, a fifth grader and member of the Instrumental Group, recently won first place at a provincial piano contest. Members of the boys and girls' martial arts team won team events at a 1984 contest organized by the province and 17 of them won first place for their individual performances.

When asked whether these after-school activities would affect the pupils' studies, Cai replied that classroom work was of top priority. "The after-school activities take up less than two hours a week." She also said that through

these activities, the pupils have gained more knowledge and therefore seem to learn faster than the others.

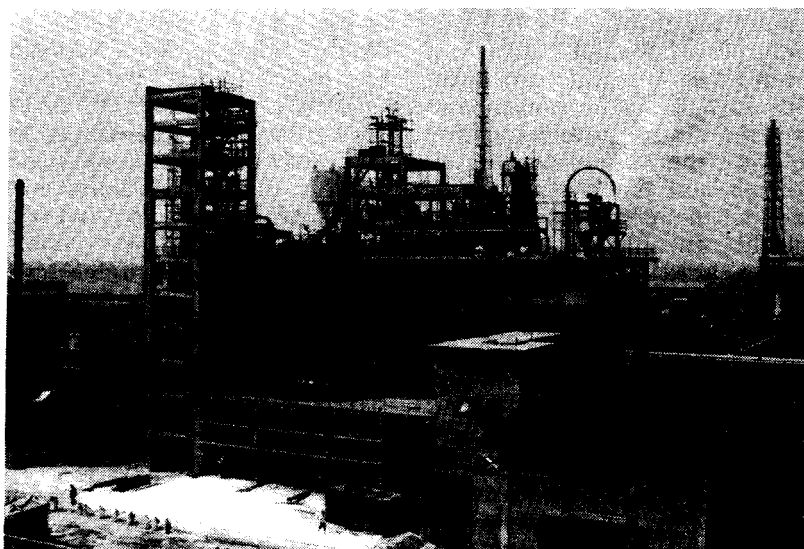
Wisdom Centre

The Fuzhou Children's Centre is complete with a performance hall, library, observatory, cinema, biology hall and exhibition hall. It is composed of more than 20 groups specializing in computer science, astronomy, biology, radio engineering, model airplanes, fine arts, music and dance. It receives some 500 students daily.

According to Chen Xi, the 57-year-old director, the centre has stayed open year-around since it first opened its doors in 1949, the year New China was born.

While showing me around, Chen said the children were organized into groups according to their own interests and hobbies. "We make them use their brains and hands in order to give scope to their creativity," Chen said. "Many talented children began their training here. A child named Chen Ge developed a multi-functional planetarium here, which was brought to Japan for display at an international children's invention exhibition." And each year, Chen said, a number of students who attend the centre are recommended for admission into universities or pass examinations for post-secondary school programmes.

"I'm working for neither fame nor gain," Chen said. "I love these kids. I'm willing to hold the social ladder for them to climb up. I'm happy to see these flowers blossoming." ■



A new workshop at the Sichuan Chemical Plant, which was built by China, the Federal Republic of Germany and Belgium.

High-Tech for Chemical Industry

Importing advanced technology for producing urgently needed chemicals is one of the priorities of the Seventh Five-Year Plan (1986-90), said an official of the China National Chemical Engineering Corp. (CNCEC).

In a recent interview with *Beijing Review*, An Yuzong, general manager of CNCEC, said China expects to import equipment for extracting chemical deposits and for manufacturing compound fertilizer, basic chemical materials and refined chemicals.

Foreign businesses are welcome to discuss technical transfers, cooperative production, joint ventures, technical services and consultation, and compensatory trade with CNCEC, An said.

In 1985, the last year of the Sixth Five-Year Plan period (1981-85), he said, CNCEC imported 108 projects and signed 248 contracts.

Compared with technologies introduced during the Fifth Five-Year Plan period (1976-80), the

Sixth Five-Year Plan made strategic shifts in import areas — from importing complete sets to single key components; from importing whole factories to only the technology needed for updating old enterprises; and from using a single form of co-operation to using a variety of forms.

An said China's export of chemical technology has also increased, and that China's chemical exports are expected to increase further during the Seventh Five-Year Plan period. ■

Bank Offices Active In Beijing

The first floor of Beijing's Jianguo Hotel, is crowded with foreign bank offices.

Since the implementation of its open policy, a growing number of foreign bankers have opened operations in China. More than 160 representative offices and 18 branches of 100 banks from 24 countries and regions now have offices in China. More than 90

foreign bank offices do business out of Beijing.

The Westdeutsche Landesbank of the Federal Republic of Germany is the newest addition to Beijing's foreign banks. Klaus R. Schroeder, its chief representative, said office space in the capital is as expensive as in New York. But, he added, it is worthwhile to have an office in Beijing.

Anne A. LeBourgeois, from Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co. of the United States, said China is a promising financial market. She said it is hard to imagine an international commercial bank not having a representative here.

Credit Suisse's clients include many small and medium-sized enterprises that are not in a position to send representatives abroad. The bank's Beijing office provides them information services.

Foreign bank offices are not allowed to do banking in China. Instead, their purpose is to establish contacts with Chinese banks, obtain market information, recommend trade possibilities and provide consultancy services.

Hanspeter Brunner of Credit Suisse says his bank made substantial achievements in issuing credit cards in 1985.

The representative offices have gained a good reputation in China. The Bank of Montreal is now the financial consultant for China's Ministry of Water Resources and Electric Power on its businesses in Canada. The Canadian bank will furnish financial consultation to China's three large hydropower station projects and take part in extending a syndicated loan to these projects. It is also one of the initiators of a US\$430 million loan for the construction of the Shanjiao Thermal Power Station in Guangdong Province.

The Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co. gives active support to China's issuance of bonds in foreign countries and acts as one

of the major agents of the Bank of China.

The British Standard Chartered Bank has been interested in tourist hotel projects. It believes that tourist hotels are quick to regain their investments and have the greatest potential of keeping a balanced foreign exchange reserve.

The Standard Chartered Bank established a branch in Shanghai in 1858, and it has been operating there ever since. Also in Shanghai are branches of the Hong Kong-Shanghai Banking Corp., the Bank of East Asia Ltd. and the Singapore United Overseas Bank Group, all of which were

established before 1949. Other branches of foreign banks have been set up in recent years in the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone.

If the Chinese government ever allows the establishment of foreign bank branches in Beijing, most of the representative offices say they will offer branch services. Some, however, think not. A representative of Credit Suisse said no good news has come from Shenzhen, and he wants to wait and see. The Westdeutsche Landesbank thought it is wise for China to keep things the way they are because conditions are not ripe for China to open a financial market. ■

by Sun Ping

China Opens Poultry Companies

Two Sino-foreign joint ventures, the Beijing Poultry Breeding Co. Ltd. and the Beijing Dafa Chia Tai Co. Ltd., were inaugurated on May 21.

The Beijing Poultry Breeding Co. Ltd. is funded by the Beijing Dafa Animal Products Co., Avian Farms International, Inc. of the United States, and the Chia Tai Livestock Co. Ltd. of Thailand. The proportion of investment is 37 percent, 35 percent and 28 percent respectively. The venture is expected to be run jointly for 25 years, according to the contract.

Beijing Poultry is China's first joint venture of its kind and Southeast Asia's first to deal in original chicken breeds. China will soon have its own poultry breeds, gene bank and breeding systems. Beginning in 1987, the company will produce 30,000 chickens annually. Under the contract, Avian Farms International Inc., founded by Robert H. Saglio, will provide the joint venture with its

original breeds and breeding technology.

The Beijing Dafa Chia Tai Co. Ltd. is an equity venture, and the period of its operation is also 25 years.

Beijing Dafa will include a hatchery with an annual capacity of 16 million eggs and a slaughterhouse to process 12 million to 16 million chickens a year for domestic and foreign markets.

The Beijing Chia Tai Feed Processing Factory will provide chicken feed to the two companies. The factory was established a year ago by the Beijing Feed Co. and the Chia Tai Group of Thailand, and will go into test operation in October.

The two joint ventures hope to contribute to the readjustment of the rural production structure and the promotion of poultry breeding in China. ■

Electronics Exports On the Increase

In the first quarter of 1986 China exported US\$37.39 million

worth of electronic products. Exports from the China National Electronics Import and Export Corp. (CNEIEC) were 3.5 times higher than the same period in 1985, and orders continue to come in from the United States and Western Europe.

China's black and white and colour TV sets, radio-recorders and electronic toys have entered European, American and Southeast Asian markets. CNEIEC has signed contracts with the largest US electronics retail dealer on exporting Chinese electronic toys. CNEIEC has also reached an agreement with an American company on long-term co-production of ground stations for two-way satellite communications. At the same time, contracts have been signed with other US companies for the export of Chinese-made recorders and recorder components. China has also concluded agreements with Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal on exporting production lines for household electrical appliances, equipment and complete parts sets. ■

by Sun Ping

Anhui's Foreign Trade Symposium

A foreign trade symposium will be held from June 28 to July 8 in Hefei, capital of Anhui Province. The symposium will be sponsored by the provincial Commission for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade and foreign trade companies.

Foreign businesses will be invited to the conference to hold talks on imports and exports, as well as on economic and technological co-operation.

The commission has announced that so far 97 projects are scheduled for discussion.

Spring Through Children's Eyes

Imagination takes wings as a group of fledgling painters interpret the world in works that appear on the cover of this issue of "Beijing Review."

The four paintings on the cover were chosen from dozens of pieces contributed by pupils at the art department of the China National Children's Centre in Beijing. These young painters, ranging in age from 8 to 10, are selected for entry to the centre based on their artistic abilities and attend classes twice a month.

The two top watercolours were done by pupils during class without guidance from teachers. The works show a great deal of imagination and creativity. In their second class, the teacher pointed out the good points and shortcomings of each painting. The third lesson included a trip outdoors to observe parts of Beijing in the spring.

Xian Li, 9, said her piece (*lower left*) was a portrait of flowers. "In the garden I saw many flowers and plants, such as winter jasmine,

peach blossoms, pine trees, weeping willows and some that I don't know. Yellow, pink, green and purple—the colours are all so beautiful." Xian's father is an engineer who also loves painting and attends the class with his daughter.

Meng Jie, 9, began drawing when she was in kindergarten. She says she can spend several hours straight drawing. Her piece (*lower right*), she said, is entitled "Spring."

Yu Zhou, 10, says her painting (*upper left*) is a pond with fish and swans. She said the white is the thawing snow, and the little man with red wings is the water demon. Yu said she has studied traditional Chinese painting and likes to draw flowers, birds and fish. However, she said she also loves the new painting techniques she is learning.

When asked why these paintings were all by girls, the class's teacher, Long Niannan, 26, said: "It is probably because the boys are so naughty and they are reprimanded so often that their creativity is hampered."

Long said the children should be encouraged to draw with their own imaginations rather than to copy models.

Long also began drawing as a child. He said when he was in junior middle school, he studied art at Beijing's Children's Palace. Since then his interest in painting has grown steadily. After graduating from senior middle school, Long said he became a primary school teacher and was so impressed with teaching that in 1983, when he graduated from the Central Institute of Arts and Crafts, he chose to devote himself to children's art education.

Kunqu Opera Takes on New Life

Nearly 200 *kunqu* opera artists from all over the country gathered in Beijing last March to celebrate the founding of the China Kunqu Opera Research Society, which will try to revitalize the ancient art of *kunqu*. Members of the society range from performers to *kunqu* opera scholars.

Originating in Kunshan, Jiangsu Province, *kunqu* is nearly 600 years old. Its songs are accompanied by flute, vertical flute, *sheng* (a reed pipe) and *pipa* (a plucked string instrument) and are generally mild and sweet. *Kunqu* acting often resembles

dancing in its grace and fluidity.

The opera was at its peak for more than 100 years from the end of the 16th century to the early 18th century. It was at that time that a generation of outstanding performers came into being, and that *kunqu* acting was perfected, achieved great popularity and went on to influence other opera forms. Even today, traces of the melodies and repertoire of *kunqu* opera can be found in some other local operas.

In the past 200 years, however, *kunqu's* popularity has diminished. Aside from social and historical reasons, its rigid and

conservative style and scholastic libretto became too difficult for audiences to appreciate.

The opera, however, has vitality and strong artistic appeal unmatched by other operas.

The research society is expected to unite *kunqu* opera companies and troupes, research organizations and opera enthusiasts all over the country with the goal of refurbishing it through academic activities and performances. In 1986, the society plans to make video recordings of several noted *kunqu* actors and actresses in the prime of their careers. The videos will be completed within three



Wang Shiyu of the Zhejiang Kunqu Opera Troupe plays the part of the young scholar in "The Peony Pavilion."

years. The society also plans to run training courses in the stage art of the ancient operas with the help of universities' humanities departments. By 1991, ancient opera forms will be taught in China's major universities.

To celebrate the founding of the society, noted actors and actresses of the Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Hunan and Beifang *kunqu* opera companies performed six excerpts from full-length operas, providing fans with a rare glimpse of *kunqu* opera.

Picking up the Painting is an episode from the classic *The Peony Pavilion*, the representative work of the famous Ming Dynasty dramatist Tang Xianzu who died the same year as Shakespeare, 1616. *The Peony Pavilion* is the story of a young woman seeking free marriage. After a stroll in a garden, the girl, Du Liniang,

daughter of an official, falls asleep. In her dream she meets Liu Mengmei, a scholar, in the peony pavilion, and they fall deeply in love. When she wakes up, she is reprimanded by her parents for going to the garden without first asking for their permission, and she becomes ill with longing to meet the young man of her dream. She later draws a self-portrait and dies of a broken heart. The scholar has also had a similar dream in which Du Liniang is the focus of his love. Later he finds Du's portrait and is saddened by being unable to meet her. A fairy brings Du back to life and the two are united.

The excerpt *Picking Up the Painting* depicts the complex inner world of the young scholar when he finds the girl's self-portrait. Wang Shiyu from the Zhejiang Kunqu Opera Troupe deftly shows the scholar's different

moods—at first he gazes at the picture full of affection; he sighs with longing to meet her in person; then he calls to her and talks to her as if the portrait were alive. Step by step his feelings become deeper. Though this one-man show lasts 50 minutes, the audience is not bored, but touched by his sincerity and his deep love for the girl.

Another episode, *Sweeping the Graves*, was chosen from the traditional *kunqu* opera *Tale of True Lovers*. Cai Bojie, a young scholar and his wife, Zhao Wuniang, lead a harmonious life and are good to his parents. Cai goes to the capital for an imperial examination. And though he makes the highest scores on the test, his achievement only brings him misfortune. He is forced to marry the prime minister's daughter. His hometown suffers from famine and his parents die of starvation while he is working for the prime minister. His wife begs all the way to the capital looking for her husband. She finally finds him and learns that he has become a noble man. When he learns that his parents has died of hunger, he decides to return home with his second wife as his concubine.

Sweeping the Graves shows an old man, Zhang, Cai's neighbour, sweeping the graves of Cai's parents. Zhang, who had gone through many hardships with the family, is a warm-hearted person. When the actor playing Zhang first appears on stage, he has a broom in his right hand and a walking stick in his left. His gait is lumbering. His sad eyes are half-closed, revealing his generosity in looking upon the misfortune of the Cai family as his own. At the graveyard he meets a messenger sent by young Cai from the capital. He almost flies into a rage for no news had come from Cai since he left. He casts aside his broom, opens his eyes wide, takes a deep breath that sends his long beard quivering in an expression of surprise and anger. "Don't mention that Cai Bojie," he sings.

When the messenger tells him what has happened to young Cai and that Cai has had no news of his parents, Zhang's attitude softens and he forgives Cai. Here he uses his eyes, dialogue and gestures to express the humorous side of his character. After leaving the theatre, one spectator said, "I've always thought Beijing opera was the best. Now I think *kunqu* is equally as good. It would be a pity for it to disappear. *Kunqu* should be brought back to life." ■

Celebrating Man's Feathered Friends

Birds are mankind's friend," said Yang Hui, a third-grade pupil at the Gucheng Central Primary School after a bird-loving party held at Gucheng Park in Beijing April this year.

Another bird fan, Kang Li, 3, who was still in her mother's arms, caressed the glistening eyes of a stuffed owl on display at the park.

More than 2,000 persons joined the party in the park to learn about and marvel at a wide range of birds.

A country blessed with numerous varieties of birds, China has 2,139 bird species and sub-species, of which 90 are rare species that China is trying to protect.

Bird-loving activities are now attracting larger audiences. At a bird-loving-and-protecting forum held on April 3rd, leaders of the State Science and Technology Commission and those of its Beijing branch appealed to the whole country to care for its birds and to live in harmony with nature. During the meeting specialists were asked to map out city plans to ensure an ecological balance as soon as possible. They said while expanding their cities' vegetation, city dwellers should also try to attract and protect their birds so that bird-loving will become part of Chinese life.

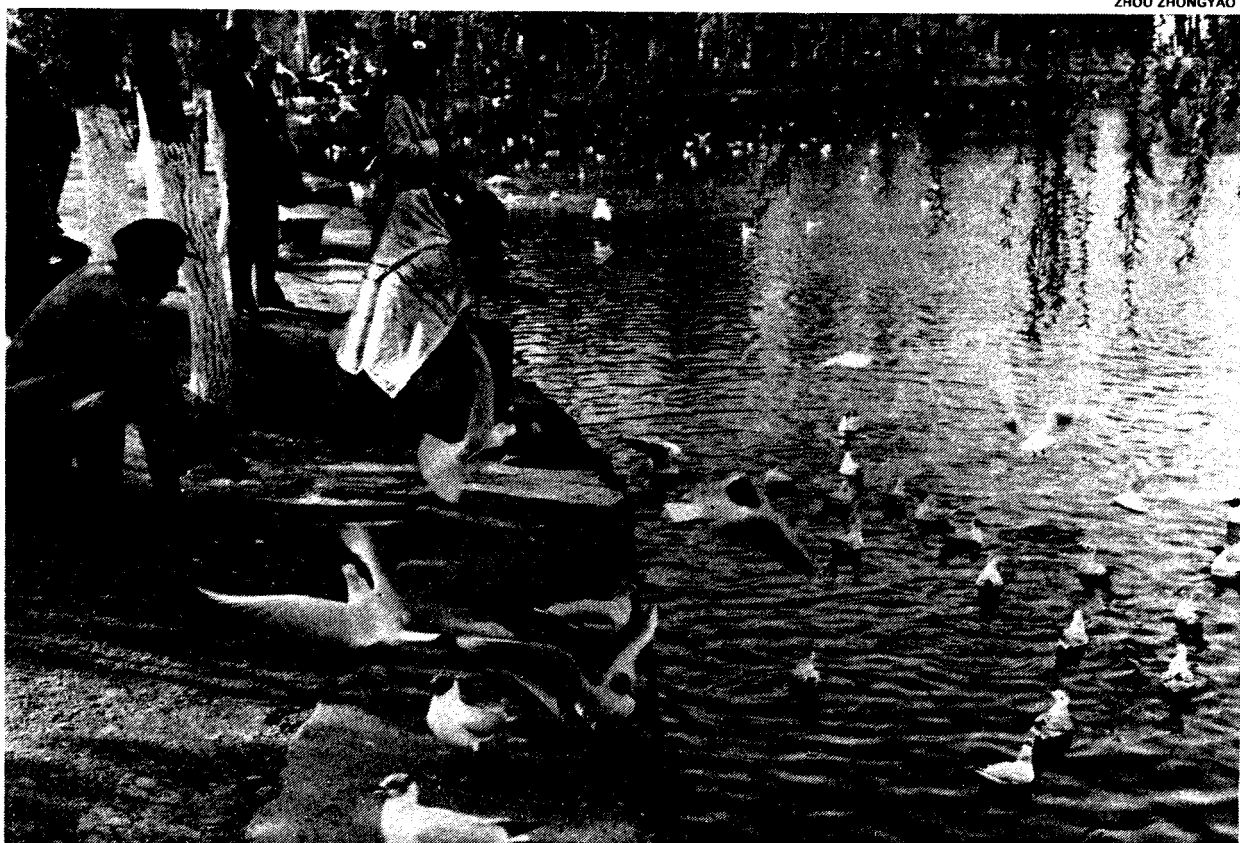
In recent years, some provinces,

municipalities and autonomous regions have established bird-loving weeks or days and unfolded bird protection activities. Heilongjiang, Jilin and Inner Mongolia adopted the swan, red-crowned crane and lark as their respective birds, while Shanxi, Ningxia and the city of Guangzhou have taken the brown-eared pheasant, the blue-eared pheasant and the thrush as theirs. Shandong, Tianjin, Liaoning, Zhejiang and other areas will elect their favourite birds during this year's bird-loving weeks.

As a result of such efforts, the number of birds around China has increased remarkably. Flocks of wild birds have been found near the West Lake in Hangzhou, in Kunming and along the Yellow River. Birds, which are not only beautiful to look at, can also be used as weapons against farm and forest insects and so reward mankind for its care of them by helping to create a better environment. ■

Last winter flocks of red-billed gulls visited China's southwest city Kunming for the first time in 100 years. Here as the birds prepare to migrate north again, local residents feed them before they take off.

ZHOU ZHONGYAO



Each Day Is a New Beginning

Like thousands of similar recreation centres all over the country, the Tanggu District's Recreation Centre for the Elderly in the coastal city of Tianjin is regarded by many retired cadres and workers as a second home.

"If not for the recreation centre, I would not be as happy as I am today. This is my home away from home," said Dai Manzhong, 63.

Before retirement, Dai was a postal worker and suffered from coronary heart disease and high blood pressure. When her only son died two years ago, Dai's life began to deteriorate, she said. She became a hermit, had no contact with the outside world and was at odds with her family. Since joining the centre, she says, however, she has changed. She has thrown herself into the centre's activities, which have taken her mind off her troubles. Now that she is one of the centre's true fans, she is there every day, rain or shine. She says she even has her lunch there or at nearby snack bars since her home is quite far away.

Though the centre's versatile activities have attracted many of the area's 60,000 people over 60, it has been able to provide only 2,600 with full memberships. A local joke says it is more difficult to become a member of the centre than it is a member of the Chinese Communist Party.

Before the centre opened, crowds of old people would gather every day at dusk to play cards or chess on any available piece of sidewalk in the district. Their ritual appearance made clear the necessity for a place to house these

activities. At the same time, the State Physical Culture and Sports Commission had called on sports organizations in China to set up sports associations for the elderly.

Supported by people from all walks of life, the Tanggu District Sports Association for the Elderly was founded on August 1, 1984. The recreation centre for the elderly under its auspices covers an area of 300 square metres, and is divided into a billiard room, a reading room, a chess room, a video tape-showing room and a tennis court.

Members of the centre begin their physical exercise early in the morning, scattered in the small parks in front of homes. They either do *tai ji quan* (shadow

boxing), sword dancing, *wu qin xi* (exercises that imitate the movements of five animals) or deep breathing. Their movements are neat and exact for most of them have participated in the training courses run by the centre.

After 8 am, groups gather for various athletic events. The centre organized teams for table tennis, jogging, tennis, swimming, basketball, billiard and bridge. Members can join any team they desire. At the beginning of every month, responsible members of the centre will print the month's sports activities and the places they will be held for distribution to each member.

Last year, another game—gate-ball—was introduced to the centre and became quite popular

In the chess room of the Tanggu district's recreation centre for the elderly.

LIU BIN





Members of the centre competing in a gate-ball match.

LIU BIN

because it suits the physical abilities of most aged. Wang Bingrong, a staff member of the Tanggu centre, went to Shanghai to attend a training course for gate-ball coaches. When she returned, she began to train coaches and athletes for Tanggu. Within a year, the Tanggu centre organized 20 gate-ball teams for the aged people, and it is planning to organize another 10 this year.

Although the ball game is popular in Asia, Japanese style gate-ball was introduced to China only recently. The size of the court for the game is only 20 metres by 15 metres. Each game takes half an hour, and requires two teams of five. The coach may give advice to his or her team at any time during the match. The equipment is simple too—a wooden hammer and a hard plastic ball for each player. It costs only 200 yuan to outfit a team.

One windy afternoon, coach Wang Bingrong and I went to the gate-ball court, where 60 of the centre's members had already gathered for a match between the district government team and the Tanggu Harbour team. The elderly on both teams were so serious and intent that when they lost one ball they reprimanded themselves, and when they won, they were modest and clearly

elated. When asked why he liked the game, one 65-year-old player said: "The game is not violent, but it helps the movement of legs and feet. The more I play, the more I want to play. I don't get bored with it even if I play four or five matches in one morning."

The centre is proud of its gate-ball teams, two of which ranked second and third during a three-city contest held recently in Beijing. Last year, its teams also took part in the Sino-Japanese Sakura Cup Gate-Ball Tournament held in Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province, and in the national gate-ball contest held in central China's Zhuzhou city.

Apart from organizing sports activities, the Tanggu district Recreation Centre for the Elderly also provides health consultations six to eight times a month. Physicians of both Western and traditional medicines, masseurs and dentists in the district are invited to answer the members' questions, and provide clinical services. All doctors visit the centre on a voluntary basis. The 68-year-old doctor of traditional medicine Liu Baohua said: "What I talk most about is how to keep fit and lead a long life. Sports help a lot in these respects. My responsibility is to guide different

people to the sports suited to their physical conditions. One of my patients here had slurred speech and could not move easily. I suggested he do deep-breathing exercises and change his diet. After following my advice for a year, he now speaks much more clearly and walks as fast as I do."

Liu Guangjun, deputy secretary-general of the Tanggu District Sports Association for the Elderly and director of the recreation centre, says concern for the elderly is a social responsibility and that his task is to ensure the aged happy lives. He does the work at the expense of many of his personal interests. As he is busy all day long, he has had to leave all the household chores, and the care of his mother-in-law and three daughters to his wife, a school teacher.

Li Shuliang is president of the Tanggu District Sports Association for the Elderly. He says the recreation centre is not only a place to help aged people keep physically fit, but also a place to nurture a healthy state of mind. He said because the members make friends and have fun at the centre, it has turned every day into a new beginning. The centre is planning more activities favoured by its members. "Our task," Li said, "is to set up more branches and more recreation centres, so more elderly will join us." ■

by Liu Bin



Tiananmen Incident

I especially enjoyed the story on the Tiananmen Incident, published in your issue No.14. The description of the event and especially the interviews with people involved brought the incident alive for me.

I also enjoyed reading your international articles. Your article on US-Libya confrontation was very important and gave me a balanced view by bringing up points and comments not generally heard in this country.

Gordon Mason
Alaska, USA

Who Walks the Wall First?

I suspect the article "Man Winds Up Great Wall Trek" (see issue No.15.) may be correct when it says that Liu Yutian is the first person to traverse the entire stretch of border fortifications now commonly known as "The Great Wall." However, Mr. Liu is certainly not the first to claim the achievement. In 1880 a brief notice in the *Annales de L'Extreme Orient* reported the journey of an American engineer named Vudauk, who asserted that he had travelled 2,400 km. from one end of the fortified frontier to the other. William Edgar Geil, another American explorer, described his journey over the wall's full length in his well-illustrated book, *The Great Wall of China* (1909). And in 1980, at a time when travel in China was not as easy as it is today, the retired American Air Force General, Robert Lee Scott, Jr., nevertheless managed to walk over long sections of the wall, in a journey later written up in the *Reader's Digest*. To these three Americans, I should add a Chinese factory worker, Liu Jihong, from Guilin, whose trek along the wall was reported in the Chinese press, and twice in *China Daily* (February 27, 1985, p. 3 and March 25, 1985, p.

3). In 1985 *China Reconstructs* mentioned that three young workers had set forth from Shanhaiguan on May 4, 1984 to walk the entire wall (March 1985, p. 7), though to my knowledge the success or failure of their enterprise has not yet been made known. I suspect there have been other attempts and claims as well, about which it would be interesting to know more. But none of this should diminish our admiration for Mr. Liu.

Arthur Waldron
Princeton, New Jersey, USA

(Liu Yutian is the first person to walk the Great Wall's full length of 5,500 km. all by himself.— Ed.)

War Crime Unforgettable

During a recent trip to Harbin, I visited the Exhibition Hall of the No. 731 Army's Crimes.

I will never forget the crimes committed by the Japanese soldiers, and feel it is my duty to let the next generation know about those crimes. There is no crime in the world more serious than invasion. Today, the friendship between China and Japan has reached a new level. I hope it will last forever.

I wish China would open more tourist spots, and that your magazine would provide more information on them.

Tatayoshi Hashimoto
Osaka, Japan

A Peace-loving Country

The new format and layout of your magazine are very attractive.

Your magazine gives detailed information about the economics, politics and culture of your great country, a real peace-loving nation that has never occupied an inch of foreign soil.

I am glad China carries out an independent foreign policy and

will never bow to pressure from any superpowers.

Your "International" column brings news and information I cannot get from the Western mass media.

If possible, please include more information about the Soviet and Vietnamese invasions of Afghanistan and Kampuchea. In my opinion, more international pressure must be exerted on both countries in an effort to stop the war.

Gerd Wederueyor
Wiesbadon, FRG

Hanoi Out of Kampuchea

Thank you very much for publishing the article on Vietnam's war in Kampuchea in your widely read *Beijing Review*, Vol. 28, December 23, 1985.

The Vietnamese government must be made to realize that those nations, up in arms against others, will never have peace of mind. Just look how Vietnamese troops are suffering in Kampuchea as they continue the battle. I suggest that you post one copy of that edition of *Beijing Review* officially to Hanoi so that the authorities there can read those letters written by Vietnamese soldiers in Kampuchea.

Vietnam may become the last developed nation on earth if it does not stop the battle. The international community should mount pressure on Hanoi until all her soldiers have been withdrawn from Kampuchea.

Fabian Okoro
Orlu, Nigeria

Children's Art

These paintings by preschool children reflect the innocence and beauty of childhood.



A Wintry Forest.
Wang Bo, 6 years old.

A Dragon and a Child.
Zhang Yang, 4 years old.



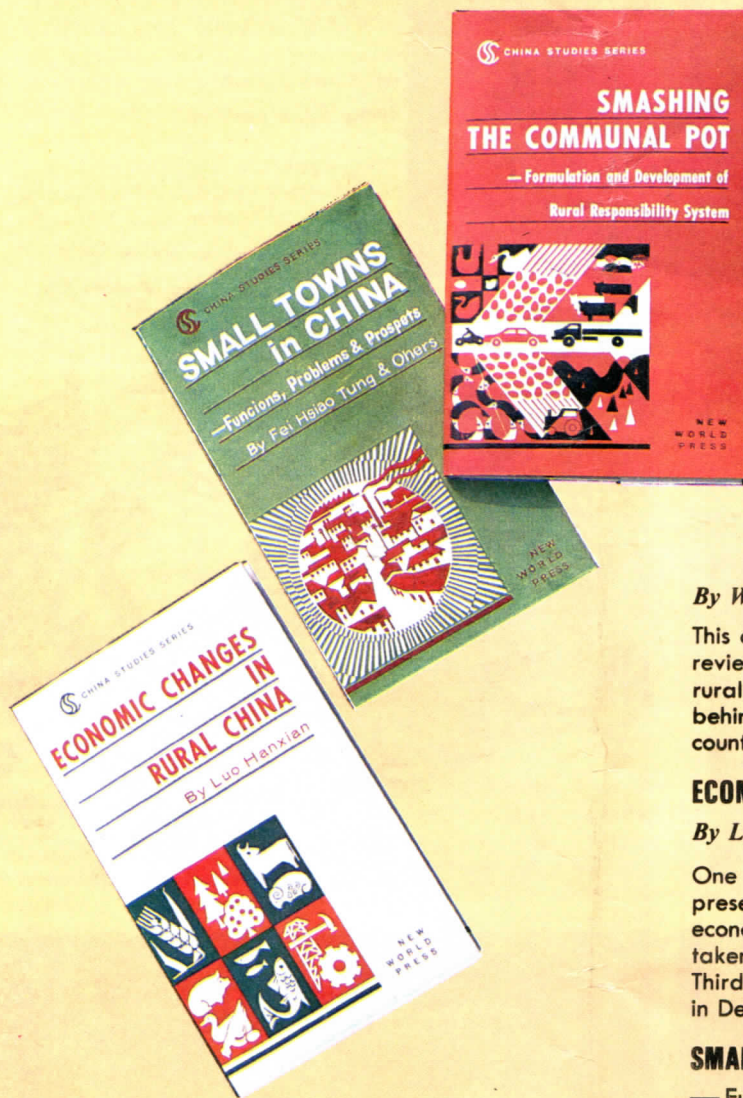
A Lion. Sun Nuo, 5 years old.



A Fairytale World.
Ning Lutao, 5 years old.



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