

北京周報

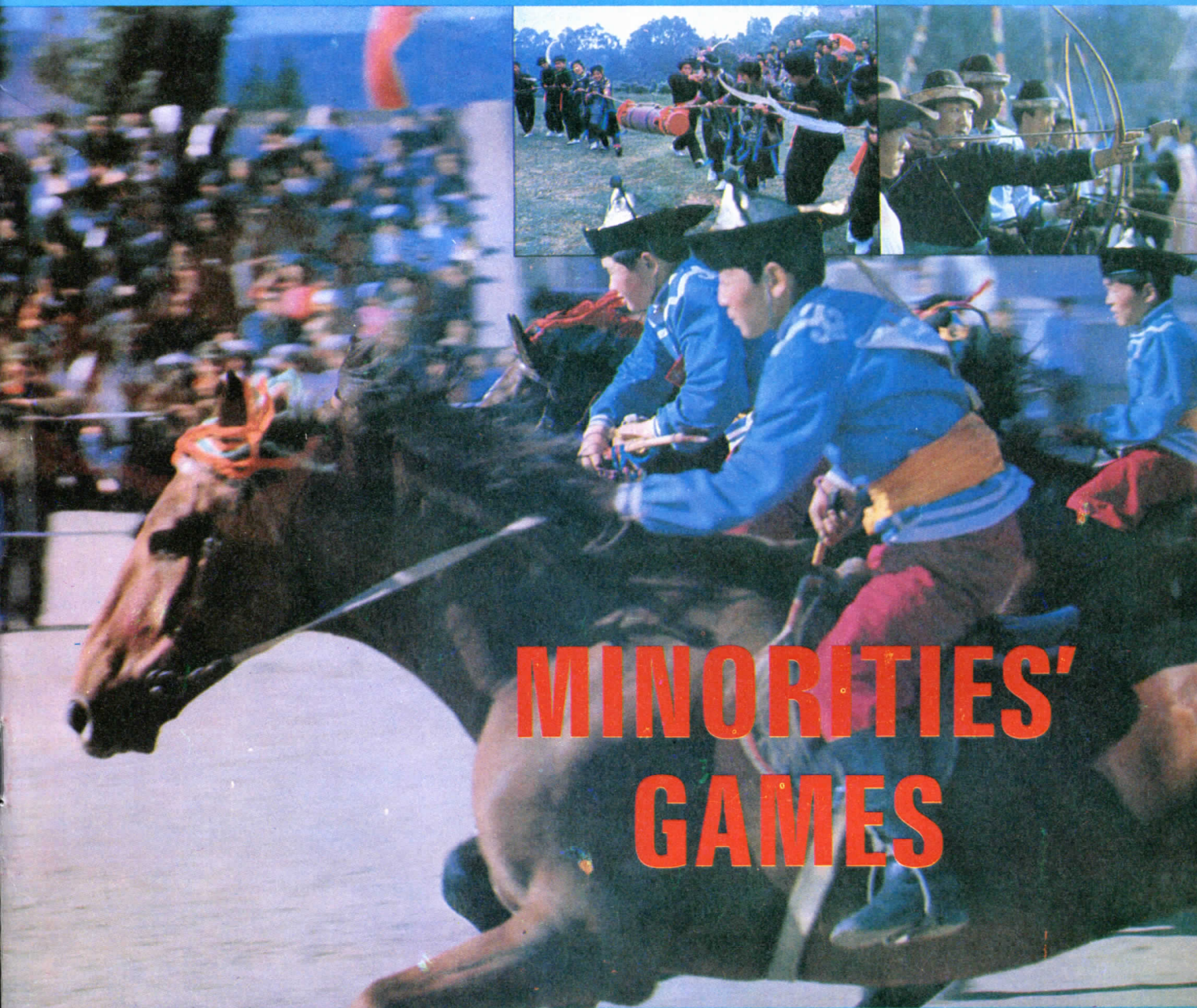
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Prospect for US-Soviet Arms Race



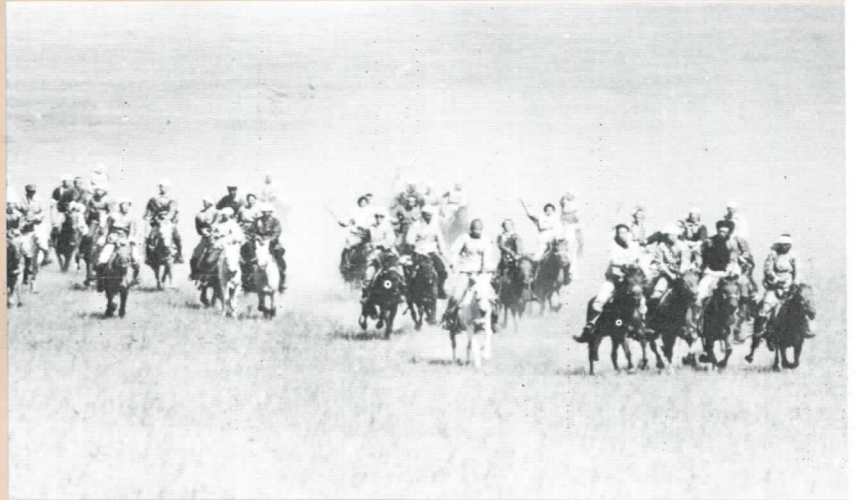
MINORITIES' GAMES



SPOTLIGHT

Archers of Yunnan Province with their coach.

A Glimpse of Chinese Ethnic Minority Sports



Women's 15-kilometre horserace.



A game of wooden ball.



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 ty sports games.

Min Tixuan

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Deng on Sino-Soviet and Sino-US Relations

■ Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, in an interview with Mike Wallace of the United States' CBS television network, hoped the Soviet Union would urge Viet Nam to end its aggression in Kampuchea, and advised the United States to take a wiser approach to the Taiwan question. In this way both superpowers could show they are serious about improving their relations with China (p. 5).

China's Labour System to be Changed

■ A major reform of China's labour system is under way, aimed at eliminating the defects of the "iron rice bowl" practice. The present job-for-life is being replaced by a labour contract system that will give workers some freedom in selecting their jobs and the enterprises, the decision-making powers in employing workers. Insurance schemes are also to be introduced for the unemployed and the retired (p. 16).

Making Right Investment Choices

■ Overseas investors run wholly-owned enterprises or take part in joint or co-operative ventures in China in order to make a profit. But only when the investment is placed where it is most needed can it bring good returns. Prospective investors may benefit from a few "tips" given by one of our editors (p. 4).

Peace vs. Arms Race

■ A general review of the arms race between the two superpowers: its history, motives, and prospects (p. 14).

Minorities Compete in Traditional Sports

■ Tug-of-war played not with the hands but with the neck? This was a keenly contested event at a recent competition. The 10-day tournament showed that despite flourishing modern athletics, traditional, often exotic, sports are still very much alive among China's 55 ethnic minorities (p. 18).

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Making the Most Of Investment in China

by Zhang Zeyu

Overseas investors run wholly owned companies or take part in joint or co-operative ventures in China in order to make a profit. Their Chinese partners have uppermost in their minds the interests and needs of their country's socialist development. Their co-operation is therefore based on a desire for mutual benefit.

It is probably known to all overseas entrepreneurs that China sponsors these enterprises to help provide the capital it needs to keep the modernization drive going. The advanced technology and management expertise imported in the process are used to correct imbalances in China's industrial setup and improve its product mix and promote the re-tooling with new technology of existing enterprises. This will in turn help increase exports as an important means of striking a balance in China's foreign exchange budget.

Overseas investment brings durable returns only when it is placed where it is most needed—wrong choices lead to financial losses. Selling components to be assembled for sale in China, for instance, may be lucrative for a time but it will not be so for long because it syphons off large sums from the state's foreign exchange reserves without benefiting China with sophisticated production expertise. If such ventures are allowed to grow unchecked, they will become too much of a burden for China.

To make the right choices, it is therefore necessary for overseas investors to co-operate with their

Chinese counterparts in feasibility studies and, perhaps more importantly, to follow closely world and Chinese market trends.

In an interview with a group of visiting foreign businessmen and bankers early last month, Premier Zhao Ziyang said that while continuing to promote all-round co-operation with the rest of the world in various ways during the Seventh Five-Year Plan period (1986-90) and the subsequent five years (1991-95), China hopes that co-operation in monetary affairs in particular will flourish, to enable more companies to invest and operate enterprises. With its limited foreign exchange reserves, he said, China is handicapped by a low repayment ability, making it difficult for overseas investors to remit their profits out of China. He suggested that both Chinese and overseas partners work together to find ways and means of tackling this problem.

According to the premier, preferential treatment will be granted to direct foreign investment in China, especially to projects generating exports, or which sell their products on the Chinese market but reinvest their profits in China. Detailed policies are in the making and a list of ventures in which foreigners are encouraged to invest will be published soon.

Drawing on the lessons of the past, the Chinese business world is becoming more choosy as to where overseas capital is channelled. Some investment is discouraged, for example:

—Enterprises that call for technology which, though advanced, has already been imported elsewhere; industries suffering from overproduction or a near-saturated market, or whose products cannot all be exported, among them colour TV sets, refrigerators and other household appliances;

—Businesses which do not need advanced production and management expertise or are unable to increase exports to earn much sought-after foreign exchange, such as colour photo processing and taxi services; and

—Ventures whose products are subject to state export quotas, such as garments.

The few banned categories listed in the Regulations on the Implementation of the Law on Joint Ventures Using Chinese and Foreign Investment include those that are detrimental to China's sovereignty, violate Chinese law, do not contribute to the needs of China's national economic development or tend to cause environmental pollution.

It is believed overseas investors will see better days ahead with the implementation of policies favouring them, and with the further improvement of the country's investment climate. ■



Deng on Sino-Soviet, Sino-US Relations

Deng Xiaoping, chairman of the Central Advisory Commission of the Chinese Communist Party, has said that if Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev urges "Viet Nam to end its aggression in Kampuchea and withdraw its troops from there, I myself will be ready to meet him."

At the same time, the Chinese leader urged US President Ronald Reagan to do something useful for bringing about Taiwan's reunification with the mainland. As a first step, he asked the US to persuade Taiwan to open up postal, trade and shipping services with the mainland.

Deng called on Gorbachev to "take a solid step towards the removal of the three major obstacles in Sino-Soviet relations." In addition to the Vietnamese aggression against Kampuchea, there are Soviet troops in Afghanistan and on the Chinese border and in Mongolia.

Deng made his remarks in an interview with Mike Wallace of the US television programme "60 Minutes" scheduled for broadcast by the CBS network on Sunday evening.

He said that of the three major obstacles to improving Sino-Soviet relations, the main one is Vietnamese aggression against Kampuchea. It has put Sino-Soviet relations in a "hot-spot" situation—a state of confrontation that takes the form of pitting Vietnamese armed forces against China, he said.

"If the Soviet Union can contribute to the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea, this will remove the main obstacle in Sino-Soviet relations," he said.

"Once this problem is resolved, I will be ready to meet Gorbachev. Now I am over 82, already advanced in years. I have long accomplished my historical task of making overseas visits. If this

obstacle in Sino-Soviet relations is removed, I will be ready to break the rule and go to any place in the Soviet Union to meet Gorbachev," he said.

"I believe," Deng said, "a meeting like this would be of great significance to the improvement of Sino-Soviet relations and the normalization of Sino-Soviet state relations."

Deng said that without Soviet backing the Vietnamese could not go on fighting in Kampuchea for a single day.

Gorbachev evaded the question of Kampuchea in his Vladivostok speech in which he proposed easing tensions, Deng said.

"There was something new in Gorbachev's speech and that is why we have expressed cautious welcome to what was new and positive in it," he said.

"However," he pointed out, "Gorbachev's remarks also show that he has not taken a big step. Soon after Gorbachev made his speech, an official from the Soviet Foreign Ministry also made a speech that was different in tone.

"This shows that the Soviet authorities have yet to decide among themselves what China policies to pursue, and so we still have to wait and see," he added.

Advising the United States to take a wiser approach to the Taiwan issue, he said, "There has been talk in the United States to the effect that the United States has taken an attitude of 'non-involvement' on the question of China's reunification, namely, the Taiwan question."

"This is not true," Deng said. "The fact is that the United States has been involved all along.

"In the 1950s, MacArthur and Dulles regarded Taiwan as an unsinkable aircraft carrier of the United States in Asia and the Pacific. Therefore the Taiwan question has been the most

important issue in the negotiations on the establishment of Sino-US diplomatic relations."

Deng said with regret, "During the later period of the Carter administration, the US Congress adopted the Taiwan Relations Act, which has become an immense obstacle in Sino-US relations."

Recalling his "cordial and frank" talk with President Reagan during the latter's visit to Beijing, Deng expressed the hope that during his term of office, President Reagan will bring about further progress in Sino-US relations, including some effort in respect to China's reunification.

"I believe that the United States, President Reagan in particular, can accomplish something with regard to this question," he said.

"The United States can encourage and persuade Taiwan first to have 'three exchanges' with us, namely, the exchange of mail, trade and air and shipping services," Deng added.

"Contacts of this kind can help enhance mutual understanding between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits, thus creating conditions for them to proceed to discuss the question of reunification and ways to achieve it."

When asked what Taiwan had to do to bring about reunification, Deng said, "First of all, it is a national question, a question of national sentiment.

"All the descendants of the legendary Yan Emperor and Yellow Emperor want to see China reunified. The present division runs counter to our national will. So long as Taiwan is not reunified with the mainland, Taiwan's status as part of Chinese territory will remain uncertain. No one knows when Taiwan will be taken away again," Deng said.

Deng reiterated that the for-

Reform Now An Historical Trend

China's reform has become an historical trend that cannot be reversed, said Hu Yaobang, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China, during an inspection tour of Qinghai, a northwestern province of China.

Hu Yaobang visited Qinghai from August 19 to 30. This was his second visit to this remote area, the first being in July 1983. On August 27 at a meeting attended by provincial Party and government cadres and PLA officers, the General Secretary made a speech.

Hu said China's rural economic reform had been very fruitful. There had been a good start to economic reform in the cities too. But the results should not be overestimated. The problem is that some leading comrades in some areas and certain government departments are always slow to act because they lack a correct understanding of the situation. As a result, some decisions made by the Party Centre Committee and the State Council are not being implemented. For instance, Hu said, though it had been made

clear in a report by Premier Zhao Ziyang on the work of the government that a leasing system should be promoted among small enterprises, many areas recoiled from this policy last year. However, he said, things had taken a turn for the better this year after warnings from the central government.

Qinghai is a sparsely populated province. With rich but untapped natural resources, it has an area of 721,000 square kilometres. The inhabitants of Qinghai are of various nationalities including Hans, Tibetans, Huis and other ethnic minorities. While stressing the importance of reform, the General Secretary also en-



Hu Yaobang talking to local Tibetans in Qinghai.

WANG JINGYE

mula of "one country, two systems" will be adopted in reunifying the country.

"Socialism will continue to be practised on the mainland," he said, "while Taiwan will practise capitalism. This will neither bring changes to Taiwan and the lifestyle of the people there nor cause losses to them." ■

Daya Bay: Safety First

Our government has not changed and will not change its decision to build a nuclear power station at Daya Bay. The

government made the decision after much careful and serious thought, and has taken into full consideration the safety of the residents in Hong Kong and those living near the station," said Jiang Xinxiong, minister of the nuclear industry at a press conference on September 5.

"The Chernobyl nuclear disaster in the Soviet Union on April 26 has attracted worldwide concern about the safety of nuclear plants," added the minister. "The Chinese government also attaches great importance to it. The State Council held a special meeting to discuss the country's nuclear power programme, and has stated definitely that safety and quality must always be put first in

building nuclear power plants. Detailed measures concerning safety have been taken. The principle of developing nuclear power in an active and proper way was confirmed at the 16th Session of the Standing Committee of the Sixth National People's Congress held in June. The decision to build the Qinshan and Daya Bay nuclear power stations was taken by the Chinese government with the utmost caution and after lengthy study," the minister said.

When asked to comment on public anxiety in Hong Kong about the construction of the nuclear power plant at Daya Bay, Minister Jiang said: "The public concern in Hong Kong has drawn

couraged the Qinghai people to carry out their own reform programme in a flexible and creative way. As a multi-national area, Qinghai's special local conditions deserved to be taken fully into consideration. The reform of the commercial and medical care systems in this province, for instance, should not follow the same pattern as that of the interior areas.

Hu admitted that over-concentration of power is a serious problem in China's administrative system, but central authorities were seeking ways to combine the reform of the political system with that of the economic system. After quoting Deng Xiaoping's 1980 speech "On the Reform of the System of Party and State Leadership" (*Beijing Review*, No. 32, 1986, p. 15), Hu said, "Without getting rid of over-concentration of power, without streamlining administrative set-up and decentralizing decision-making powers, it will be hard to further the economic reform and it will not be easy either to preserve the results achieved." Hu reiterated the importance of Deng's speech, which had been discussed and approved by the Political

Bureau, and described it as the programmatic document guiding China's reform of the political system.

General Secretary Hu also made suggestions on Qinghai's economic development. First, the provincial government should pay more attention to animal husbandry. Secondly, it should make good use of its rich resources such as oil, gas, lake salt and hydroelectric power. With the help of the government, he said, the province could build a number of major projects, attracting both domestic and foreign capital and advanced technology. Thirdly, the General Secretary hoped the province would open its doors wider to other provinces of China as well as to foreign countries, in order to draw in more funds, technology and specialists.

Before he ended his speech, the General Secretary told the local officials that one of the tasks of the forthcoming Sixth Plenary Session of the 12th Central Committee will be to examine and approve the principles guiding the country's cultural and ethical development. A decision will be made at the meeting, Hu said. ■

by Shang Rongguang

with M310 pressurized water reactor imported from France and it was very safe and quite different from that at Chernobyl in the Soviet Union. This type of reactor is advanced in technology, safe to operate and easy to control.

"If by any chance a serious accident occurs at the Daya Bay plant, what would be the aftermath?", asked a correspondent.

Jiang replied that melting of the core of this kind of reactor was the most serious possible accident. Even in that case, residents living more than 10 kilometres away from the plant need not be evacuated. The Three Mile Island accident in the United States was of this kind, and the greatest radiation effect on local residents there was estimated as no more than that of a conventional X-ray check.

At the press conference, Minister Jiang also spoke about the history of China's nuclear industry and disclosed measures for nuclear safety in the future. He said, "It is 30 years since we started our nuclear industry. Now a complete industrial system has been set up, and we have a contingent of highly qualified nuclear workers. We have designed and built in all a dozen reactors, some for production, some for research and others for nuclear-powered submarines. By August 1986, we had accumulated altogether 160 reactor-year experience in the operation and management of nuclear reactors, a fact not known to many. We always advocate extensive international co-operation and supervision. The government has decided to make the Daya Bay station one of the nuclear stations for safety supervision from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), with whom China is also willing to co-operate in setting nuclear safety standards, and safety evaluation." ■

by Li Rongxia

attention from our state leaders, and they think it is understandable. It is a basic principle of our nuclear power development programme to protect the health and safety of staff and the nearby residents. The Daya Bay programme is based on rigorous scientific research, and safety is always emphasized as of first importance in choosing the location and the type of reactor, ordering equipment, and setting criteria for safety, training personnel, management and international co-operation. Safety can be ensured so long as the station is operated in a strict and scientific way."

The location of the plant was

finally decided in September 1983 after a careful study which began in 1979. Within an area of 50 square kilometres around the selected site, the geological conditions are stable and no deep faults exist. There has been no earthquake for 1,000 years exceeding the seventh grade in intensity. Nevertheless, to be on the safe side, the Daya Bay plant has been designed to withstand earthquakes of the eight grade. Situated by the sea, coolant water is easily available. "The site is ideal," said Jiang.

When asked about the type of reactor the Daya Bay plant will use and the safety standards, Jiang said the station will be installed

China: A Summer Of Rain and Floods

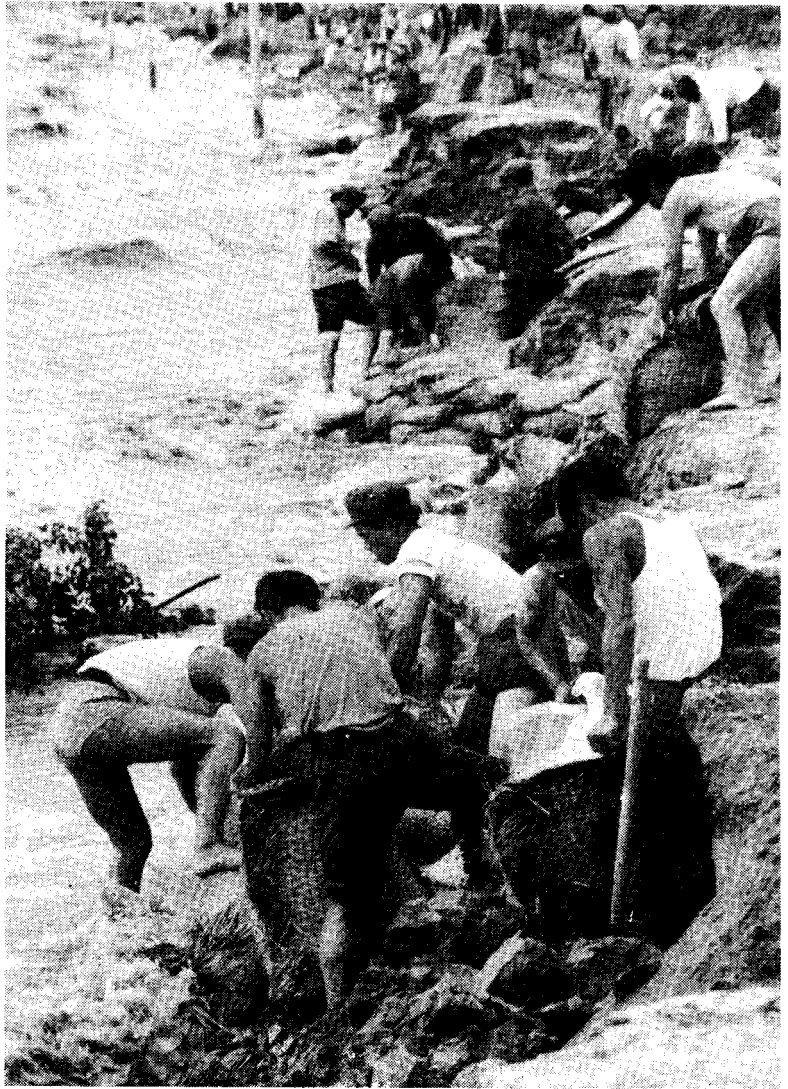
Floods are subsiding in northeast China. But during the summer, more than 3 million hectares of farmland were damaged and 179 people killed, an official of the Central Flood Control Headquarters told *Beijing Review*.

Among the three northeast provinces, Jilin was most severely hit, suffering 12 heavy storms from mid-July to August. The Songhua and Dongliao rivers, as well as the Taohe, Yinma, Hunjiang and Huifa rivers—all tributaries of the Dier Songhua River—overflowed their banks and nearly half of the surrounding land was under water until mid-August. Seven million people were affected by the disaster, with over 400,000 homes destroyed and direct losses estimated at 4.5 billion yuan (US\$1.2 billion).

People, nevertheless, faced up to the disaster with fortitude. When the turbulent Dongliao River smashed a village's wooden bridge on July 30, some soldiers jumped into the chest-deep water, propping up the bridge with bare shoulders to evacuate the more than 2,000 villagers.

On August 3, Baicheng Prefectural Party Committee decided to breach two dykes to divert the surging water and save the Changchun-Baicheng railway and highway, the Fuyu Oilfield, the Changshan Chemical Fertilizer Plant and a thermal power plant. This meant that several villages would be submerged along with their crops and businesses. The local peasants showed immediate understanding. One of them told officials with tears in his eyes: "Just do it if it is for the good of the country," though his heart was bleeding as he saw water pouring through their homes.

By comparison, Liaoning and Heilongjiang provinces were not so badly hit. Water level along the



Troops help reinforce a dyke on the Taohe River in the Baicheng Prefecture of Jilin Province.

Liaohe, Liaoning province's largest river, was one-third higher than last year. However, the damage was much more bearable because people had reinforced river embankments and were better prepared for the emergency. This year Liaoning lost 1.35 billion yuan (US\$365 million), against 4.8 billion yuan last year.

In Heilongjiang Province, the Songhua River was the most swollen for 29 years but Harbin, the provincial capital that sits on its bank, stood unharmed.

In general, northeast China had heavier floods this year than last. But damage was less thanks to precautionary measures. These included clearing away obstacles to river courses; reinforcing dykes and organizing effective defences beforehand by sending high-ranking officials to the "front line."

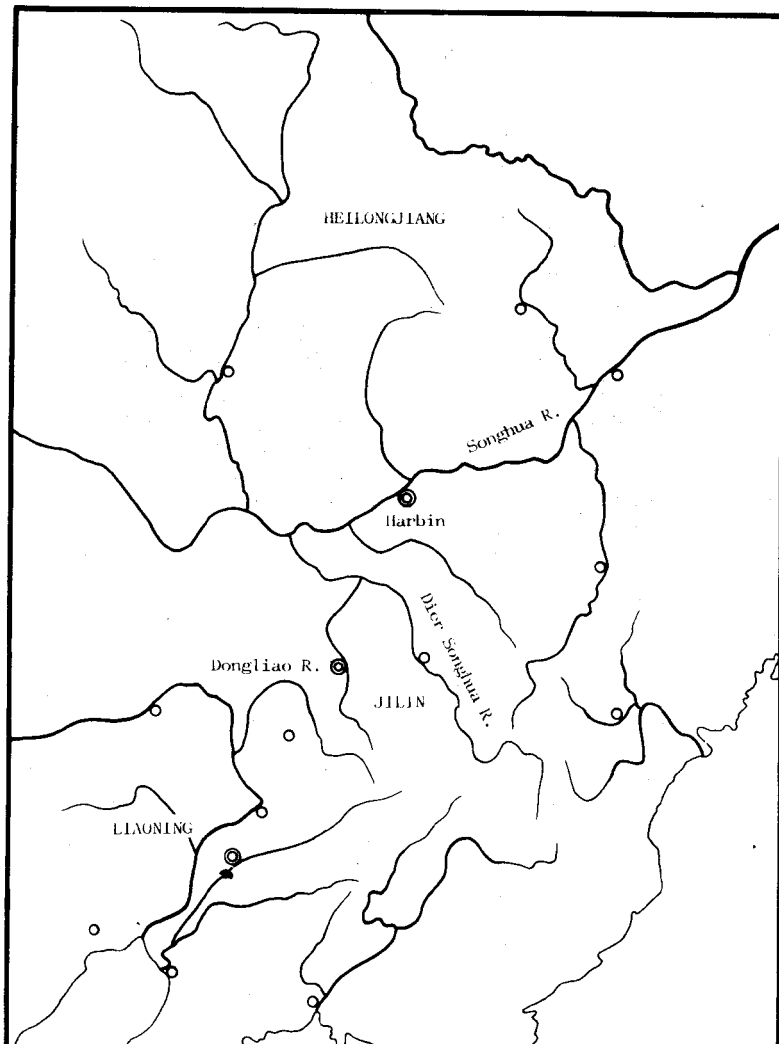
Qiao Shi, member of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee and vice-premier of the State Council, inspected the endangered dykes of

the Songhua River on August 21 and congratulated soldiers and civilians on their victory in fighting the floods. Yang Zhen-huai, secretary-general of the Central Flood Control Headquarters and vice-minister of water resources and electric power, inspected Jilin, where the damage was most serious. Provincial leaders also played their part.

Elsewhere, a typhoon hit Guangdong and Fujian provinces in August and in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, heavy rains-

forms submerged thousands of hectares of rice paddies and swept away many houses. In mid-July, Shanghai and Zhejiang were hit by the biggest tornado since 1956. In Shanghai 4,800 houses were torn apart, leaving 24 dead and 554 injured, with direct property losses estimated at 18.4 million yuan (about US\$5 million). In Sichuan and Anhui provinces, the disaster struck in the form of a series of hailstorms.

by Chen Dongjing



News in Brief

China's National Defence University held its opening ceremony in Beijing on September 1. More than 400 students, mostly senior army officers, were enrolled in three departments—basic military science, defence research and advanced studies.

Shanghai authorities have decided to levy a surcharge on poor quality products manufactured with obsolete equipment. A spokesman said the ultimate aim of the move is to edge outdated products out of the market and encourage the development of new products.

A contract was signed on September 4 between the Po Lin Monastery in Hong Kong and the China Astronautics Science and Technology Consultant Corporation (CASTCC) of the Ministry of Astronautics, for the construction of what will be the largest bronze statue of Buddha in the world. The project will combine the best of Buddhist sculpture, traditional bronze craft technique and modern technology.

HARARE

NAM in the Prime of Life

The 8th non-aligned summit meeting was the largest so far, and full of vigour, showing that the non-aligned movement (NAM) has now come to maturity.

The 8th summit of the non-aligned countries which represents approximately 100 states with populations totalling 2 billion people, came to a successful conclusion in Harare, capital of Zimbabwe, on September 7.

After a week of enthusiastic discussions, and also heated debate, non-aligned leaders issued political and economic declarations, and also a special declaration on southern Africa, indicating how the non-aligned movement (NAM) views the major issues of the world today and what its positions are on them.

Both the conference and its documents show that the situation in southern Africa was the question uppermost in the minds of the leaders, who almost without exception severely condemned the racist regime in Pretoria.

The selection of Zimbabwe, a neighbour of South Africa, as the venue of the summit was in itself a sign that the leaders were to launch a crusade against the Pretoria regime, the last bastion of colonialism and racism in the world, in order to lend a hand to the 20 million black people in that part of Africa in their battle for emancipation.

The leaders cited Pretoria's crimes in practising apartheid, slaughtering African resisters, blocking Namibia's independence and committing acts of aggression and subversion against the neighbouring frontline states.

In the special declaration released by the conference, the leaders called on the international community to apply comprehensive, mandatory sanctions against

Pretoria, and to take steps to accelerate Namibia's independence. A solidarity fund for the frontline states will be set up to extend emergency or long-term loans to them.

The vigorous actions of the leaders at the summit will undoubtedly contribute to the final uprooting of colonialism and the complete liberation of Africa.

Another focal point of the summit was the scramble between the two superpowers in intermediate areas that have given rise to a series of wars affecting non-aligned countries, even leading to outright military intervention.

Many countries, notably Pakistan, Singapore and Malaysia denounced the military occupation of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union, and of Kampuchea by Viet Nam with Soviet backing, either mentioning or without mentioning the name of the aggressors.

Cuba, Libya and Syria and a few other countries denounced the United States for its interference in Nicaragua's internal affairs, its backing for Israeli expansion in the Middle East, and its refusal to find a solution to the Palestine question.

The charges against both the Soviet Union and the United States were to be found in the political declaration in the sections on the situation in specific regions.

The political declaration also had this to say: "The security and independence of non-aligned countries are being increasingly threatened by colonialist policies, by great-power and bloc rivalries, by imperialist policies of domin-

ation and by the quest for spheres of influence... all of which has led to military, political and economic pressures and foreign intervention against non-aligned countries."

It also said: "The extension of the East-West confrontation to local and regional disputes complicates them further, renders their resolution difficult and endangers world peace."

All this reveals the fact that the contest between the two superpowers is the root cause of many of the world's problem situations.

With regard to conflicts between non-aligned countries, the leaders were unprecedentedly vocal in urging parties concerned "to abide strictly by the principles of the United Nations Charter and of peaceful coexistence," and to "refrain from the threat or use of force in international relations."

Many leaders expressed deep concern about the armed conflicts and wars between member countries, especially the Iran-Iraq war. Kuwait proposed the creation of a committee composed of the heads of state of non-aligned countries to mediate in the war.

Morocco and Cyprus said they were willing to accept solutions to the questions of the Western Sahara and Cyprus that were in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions.

Economic issues also came up for discussion, taking up about one half of the length of speeches and conference documents.

The conference's economic declaration stressed that all forms of racial discrimination, foreign aggression, occupation, domination, hegemony, expansionism, exploitation and destabilization constitute fundamental obstacles to the economic liberation of developing countries." It went on to say that "the unjust and inequitable international economic system constitutes a major impediment to the development process of non-aligned and other developing countries."

Pointing to the inter-

dependence between economies in the world, the declaration urged developed countries to adopt "an integrated approach" and to "enter into serious negotiations" with developing countries on the issues of money, finance, debt, trade and development.

The document also stressed the "importance of collective self-reliance" through South-South co-operation. It showed, too, that the non-aligned countries have identified the heart of their economic troubles and the way out of them.

The documents of the conference also discuss disarmament, international security and the world's "flash-points."

The summit meeting was called at a time when the non-aligned countries are faced with a great many difficult problems. This can

be seen from the turbulence in southern Africa and Central America, the foreign military occupation of Afghanistan and Kampuchea, the annual US\$1,000 billion of military spending worldwide, and the approximately US\$1,000 billion of debt shouldered by the developing countries.

Nevertheless, the summit conference achieved positive results. This is added proof that NAM, after 25 years of growth, has reached maturity and is buoyant with vitality. No force whatsoever can arrest its advance. But when one looks at the summit's final documents, it is not difficult to find many issues that have been dealt with at preceding summits. It is no easy job to do away with the world's evils and NAM's journey is bound to be long.

■
by Chen Shengtao

PAKISTAN

Call for Peace and Democracy

The arrest of Benazir Bhutto and other opposition leaders caused riots and bloodshed in Pakistan, but there are now fresh signs of hope.

The Pakistani government had decided to release all political activists in detention, including leaders of the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), and to hold talks with all political parties, including the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), in an attempt to solve the current political crisis, a high-ranking Pakistani official said in Islamabad on September 4.

With the ending of martial law at the end of last year, the Pakistani people had been looking forward to a return of peace and democracy. Yet the violent clashes of the past two months have, to a great extent, dashed their hopes.

As military control has given way to democracy, the basic rights

of the Pakistani people have been gradually restored and political parties have been allowed to become active. In April this year Benazir Bhutto, leader of the PPP, the largest opposition party in Pakistan, ended her life of exile and returned home. Within a month she travelled through the four provinces of the country and took part in more than 20 big mass rallies and demonstrations, advancing two political demands—the resignation of President Zia UI-Haq, and fresh elections to be held this autumn—both flatly rejected by the Junejo civilian government which assumed power after a general election held in February last year. The government insisted that that election

was just and fair, and that another premature general election was unnecessary. It stated clearly that it would not resign until 1990, when the next general election is due.

As Independence Day on August 14 approached, the Pakistan Muslim League, the ruling party, and the MRD, which is composed mainly of PPP members, both announced that they would call mass rallies on Independence Day. This produced anxiety among the Pakistani people who feared that direct clashes might take place between the two, and many of them appealed to the government to take necessary measures to prevent such incidents. On the evening of August 11 Prime Minister Junejo declared in a nationwide televised speech that his Pakistan Muslim League had decided to cancel its own August 14 rally in order to avoid conflict and to preserve the dignity of Independence Day. He also called for the opposition's co-operation. The authorities in Lahore and other cities then proclaimed a state of emergency, banning all political rallies and demonstrations on Independence Day. But the MRD ignored all this and resolved to implement its original plan. Finally the police detained some opposition leaders, including Benazir Bhutto, on August 13 and 14. The police action aroused strong feelings of anger among opposition supporters and resulted in a number of protests and riots with some casualties.

For the time being the government is in full control of the situation and peace has returned to the riot-torn areas. But people do not feel easy at all. The fundamental conflict still exists. The opposition parties not only refuse to give up their political demands but are growing stronger. The government in turn is showing no sign of giving way. The people need democracy, not

violence; peace, not riots. They are deplored by this setback to Pakistan's democratic process which had only begun to take shape. As an airline employee put it, "The direct victims of the politics of violence are the common people. This has been

demonstrated many times in our country's history...". The Pakistani people yearn for a democratic political system under which the national economy can develop and living standards can improve. ■

by Shi Zhongxin

NEW CALEDONIA

Dispute Over Independence

Afraid of being edged out of the South Pacific, French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac recently made a four-day visit to the French colony in the South Pacific, reasserting the French presence there.

New Caledonia, a tiny island with a population of 145,000 and a French overseas territory for over a century, has just received a visit by French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac.

Local residents have been quarrelling over the issue of independence since the end of 1984. The turmoil has resulted in an increase in the number of French soldiers stationed there. Several people have died in clashes between local Melanesians, who demand independence, the pro-France European descendants and the police. Under pressure, Paris decided that a referendum be held before the end of 1987.

To ensure a continued French economic and military presence in the South Pacific region, Chirac toured the island in the hope of relaxing racial tensions and pacifying discontent. Because the island is of vital importance to France, President Francois Mitterrand has pledged to guarantee the "strategic existence and influence" of France in the region.

However, local Melanesians will not tolerate French rule and are struggling for their independence. On December 1, 1984, the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS), a New Caledonian political party, set up a "provi-

sional government of the Kanak Republic." While admitting French sovereignty over the island, the FLNKS has expressed its wish to talk with the French government on the issue of independence.

Chirac's visit came at a time when pressure is mounting from South Pacific countries for France to grant independence to New Caledonia and end its military presence in the region, including its controversial nuclear tests.

During his stay in New Caledonia, Chirac met local leaders of different political complexions, including those of the PLNKS, who have proposed that only indigenous Melanesians participate in the referendum. This demand results from a fear that the referendum will come

down in favour of new Caledonia remaining a French territory. Native Caledonians account for only 43 percent of the territory's population. The rest are either of European descent (37 percent), or people of Asian and Pacific origin.

But Chirac insisted that all Caledonians take part in the referendum. "No one can claim the right to determine the destiny of everyone," he argued. However, he has shown an apparent shift towards the Kanak "provisional government," saying it could be taken into consideration from a legal and political point of view. French Minister of Overseas Departments and Territories Bernard Pons had earlier planned to outlaw the "government."

Chirac also back-pedalled on a decision made by President Francois Mitterrand last January to strengthen French military facilities in Noumea, capital of New Caledonia. The Prime Minister said the issue should be studied further. In addition, he invited the mayors of the 32 municipalities of New Caledonia to Paris so that he could listen to their advice on the Caledonian issue.

But despite his overtures, political analysts say Chirac took a rather cautious approach and did not mention any specific solutions. The dispute over independence will continue to grow. Who knows whether the referendum next year will turn out to the satisfaction of all sides? ■

by Xiao Lin

TECHNICAL BARRIERS

A New Trend in Trade Protectionism

The technical barriers to trade put up by the developed countries have had unfavourable effects on the foreign trade of developing countries.

Traditional trade protectionism mainly takes the form of tariff barriers. But in recent years

technical barriers to trade have gradually become the thorniest problem in international trade and

are now the principal means of the new trade protectionism. Technical barriers are of many kinds and rather complex. They have had very unfavourable effects on the foreign trade of developing countries and have severely damaged their economies.

There are two kinds of obstacles to international trade, namely, tariff barriers and non-tariff barriers. After frequent negotiations by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), tariff in various countries have been reduced to some extent. But non-tariff barriers, especially technical barriers, have become the most serious obstacle to international trade. The old trade protectionism restricts imports mainly by high tariffs and import quotas.

The new trade protectionism is harsh, complex and appears frequently in the form of changed technical standards and regulations.

Technical barriers to trade include all kinds of technical regulations and standards promulgated by central governments, local authorities and non-governmental organizations, procedures to be followed in examining whether or not the technical regulations and standards have been conformed to stipulations on packaging, labeling and documentation, and so on.

Technical barriers are flexible and changeable and it is difficult for foreign firms to adapt to them. To protect their own producers, some developed countries raise the required standards for imports in order to restrict them. Britain, France and West Germany recently signed an agreement on electronic components stipulating that the documentation issued by one of the three countries should be valid in the other two, while products from other countries must be subject to strict inspection. This made it difficult for US electronic components to enter

European markets.

In most cases technical barriers take on a legal form. In order to protect consumers' interests and the environment, many countries issue ever more strict safety, hygiene and environment-protecting regulations. For example, "Regulation on the Handling of Food, Medicines and Cosmetics," "Regulation on the Import of Milk," "Regulation Governing the Inspection of Imported Vegetables and Fruit," "Regulation for Limiting Toxins in Products," "Regulation on Flammable Fabrics," "Regulation Governing the Safety of Consumer Goods," "Regulation on the Limitation of Noise" etc., all issued by a few developed countries, lay down strict criteria for the inspection of imports. As their economies slump, or when imported goods affect consumers' interests, laws on safety and hygiene are used as an excuse to restrict imports.

The degrees of protection technical barriers provide are difficult to estimate. When exporting goods to countries like the US, Germany and Japan, the technical regulations to be followed are very complicated. Not only central governments, but local authorities and non-governmental organizations issue numerous technical regulations. Technical barriers to international trade account for approximately 10%—30% of non-tariff barriers and this proportion is rising rapidly as levels of consumption rise and high-sensitivity monitoring technology develops.

Technical barriers have had unfavourable effects on the foreign trade of developing countries. Many developing countries lack precise information on foreign technical standards and also lack strict quality control. Developed countries have formulated harsh and even nit-picking technical regulations and overelaborate inspection procedures for products manufactured

by developing countries. At the end of 1983 the United States put forward more than one hundred extra requirements for textiles imported from developing countries, greatly restricting the export of textiles from those countries to the US. According to statistics, developing countries' exports are restricted three and a half times as much by technical barriers to trade as those of developed countries. It is nothing new for the exports of developing countries to be seized as damages, lowered in price or refused entry. All this seriously affects the economies of developing countries.

The "Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade" prepared by GATT is intended to remove, or at least to reduce, technical barriers to international trade. This agreement has played a positive role in preventing the exploitation by developed countries of differences between standards and certification procedures, as a means of trade protectionism, and it also promotes international standards. However, it does not help developing countries overcome the technical obstacles placed in their way by developed countries.

It is unrealistic to place too much hope on a relaxation by the developed countries of their technical requirements for imports. Developing countries must rather develop their national science and technology and improve the quality of their products. At the same time they must strengthen their unity and carry out an unremitting struggle against technical barriers to trade.

■
by Ye Bolin

CORRECTION: The caption to the picture on p. 21, No. 35, should read: "A Buddhist Statue dating from about AD 500 at the Longmen Grottoes."

Prospects for Superpower Arms Race

by Zhou Jirong, Huang Tingwei

Since the Soviet Union began to pursue a foreign policy of world domination, the rivalry between the two superpowers for global supremacy and the efforts of other countries to oppose their rivalry have come to be the main features of contemporary international relations. The superpowers are engaged in an intensive arms race with the aim of securing strategic nuclear superiority. This presents a great threat to world peace.

Now that both superpowers possess the capacity to annihilate each other several times over, they need to decide the rules of their endless game of military competition in order to move towards mutual strategic security and to avoid direct military clashes. That is why they have agreed to hold disarmament talks. But the rivalry of the superpowers will, in our view, undergo a long-term evolution. Hence the arms race and the disarmament talks between Moscow and Washington will be with us for a long time to come.

Arms Race: The Dynamics

The arms race has intensified steadily since the end of World War II as both countries have increased their military strength to back up their pursuit of world domination. Although each gives different reasons for its military build-up, both have common motives for engaging in the arms race. It has been clearly shown over the past 40 years that the balance, or imbalance, of military strength represents their relative positions of strength, which in turn determines to a great extent their postures in the struggle for hegemony. Both sides seek to redress the imbalance, each trying to catch up with and overtake the

other. Rough military parity and balance of power could preserve the status quo and maintain stability. But the two superpowers do not rest content with mere maintenance of parity. One party inevitably seeks military superiority over the other if its situation at home and abroad improves, especially when it is enjoying a faster rate of economic growth. Then the other party is forced to meet the challenge. As a Chinese saying goes, "a boat goes up when the river rises." Military strategists in the West call this the law of reaction or reflection in the arms race. The Soviet Union and the United States are locked in a vicious circle of action and reaction. Generally speaking, from the end of World War II to the end of the 1960s, it was the US who set the challenges for the Soviet Union, but in the 1970s the situation was reversed. However, in the 1980s it is again the United States who is setting the pace.

Deep-seated suspicion is another important motive force of the arms race. Both the Soviet Union and the United States accuse each other of posing a grave threat to the other. So both sides have a strong sense of insecurity and claim that they must build up their military strength to safeguard their national security. An independent country has a right to establish its own forces to safeguard the integrity of its territory and its national security. But the term "national security" in the superpowers' vocabulary is taken beyond its proper meaning. Undoubtedly, each considers the other a major threat to itself and uses the threat as the excuse for a huge military budget. For the past few years a monograph called "The Military Strength of the Soviet Union" has been published annually in the US to serve as the

grounds for mobilizing domestic public opinion and to press Congress to approve a greater military budget. The concept of national security in the US extends to the whole of the Western hemisphere as a sphere of American influence, in which the US plays the role of protector of allied countries. The US also wants to "protect" vast regions of developing countries. The Soviet Union, on the other hand, was at first kept within the bounds of its native territory and Eastern Europe until the mid-1950s. But with the rapid increase in its military strength, and as it became more ambitious, the Soviet Union began to pursue a policy of hegemony, justified by such ideas as those of "the socialist community," "limited sovereignty," and "the natural ally of the non-aligned countries," which served as pretexts for Soviet expansion.

A further motive force of the arms race is the relation, both in the US and the USSR, between science and technology and the defence industry, in which each promotes the other. In the allocation of funds, materials, equipment and experts, priority is given to the defence industry. The development of advanced weapons stimulates the progress of science and technology. In turn, by applying the new achievements of science and technology to the defence industry the arms race is raised to a higher level. Since the 1970s the rapid advance of science and technology has shifted the emphasis from quantity to quality, both sides vying to develop a new generation of strategic offensive weapons with multiple-warheads and intercontinental ballistic missiles of small size, high precision and flexible mobility. The Soviets

also started in the late 1950s and the Americans in the 1960s to develop strategic defensive weapons, but progress was slow as the technological barriers were too numerous to break through. The Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) programme initiated by President Ronald Reagan is the inevitable outcome of the rapid progress of high technology.

New Round of Arms Race

Starting with the early 80's, the arms race between the superpowers has witnessed a shift from a strategy of nuclear offensive to one of both offensive and defensive.

The Reagan Administration has been pursuing a strategy of non-flexible response aimed at meeting the challenge of Soviet military growth. According to the US Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger's annual report to Congress for the fiscal year 1987, "This administration has promoted the search for competitive strategies at every level in our defence programme. Competitive strategies capitalize on our long-term strengths in ways that exploit Soviet long-term weakness. The hallmark of this Administration's defence programme in the second term will be the search to identify and implement competitive strategies for deterrence." The US SDI programme challenges the Soviet Union to a new round of over-all military competition. The US hopes to be the first country to establish its own strategic defence system and hence render the Soviet offensive strategic weapons obsolete.

Since Mikhail Gorbachev came to power, the Soviet Union has made a reappraisal of its domestic and international positions and has made the necessary adjustments in its foreign policy. It has adopted a so-called "accelerated development strategy" to rebuild the Soviet economy and to close

the gap with the United States. Therefore it has decided that the development of its national defence must be subordinated to that of the national economy as a whole. With this in mind Moscow is trying its utmost to prevent the SDI programme from materializing in arms control talks with Washington. However, realizing that the SDI programme is not a bargaining chip, the Soviet Union is now being forced to meet the US challenge. According to the action and reaction formula, the two superpowers will continue to engage in an all-round arms race, but now centred on the struggle for superiority in space.

With regard to the SDI programme, it is thought that certain aspects of it are feasible, as it is based on long-term research into new and sophisticated science and technology. The US government is in a position to finance SDI in its initial stages, and on the political front supporters inside the US outnumber its opponents, while the number of the US's allies opposed to it is decreasing. Progress has already been made on one item of the programme, but there are many technical problems to be overcome if the US is to build an effective defence system that could stand the test of time. Moreover, there still exists a strong force inside the US opposed to the SDI plan. Recently the US Senate issued a report questioning its feasibility. The implementation of the SDI plan would also be prohibitively expensive. It is estimated the research costs will hit 90 billion dollars by the mid-nineties. In its efforts to reach a balanced budget by the 1990s, the US Congress will place many obstacles in the way of SDI.

The Soviet Union is countering the SDI programme by vigorously developing its own defence system. There are over 10,000 Soviet scientists and engineers engaged in research work on sophisticated weapons. The Soviet

Union has achieved parity with the United States in particle beam weapons, and in high energy laser weaponry it has the edge, but in advance computer technology it lags behind the United States 10 to 15 years. In the development of a comprehensive space defence system, the US therefore enjoys a definite advantage over the Soviet Union. Notwithstanding all this, neither the United States nor the Soviet Union could build an over-all defence system by the end of the 20th century. Nuclear deterrence will remain effective for a long time to come.

The early nineties will be critical for both the Soviet Union and the United States, when a new generation of nuclear weapons are to replace existing ones. The deployment of US MX, Midgetman and Trident strategic nuclear missiles will be completed by the end of this decade. Without an arms reduction agreement, 572 INF's will be deployed in 1988. On the Soviet side, a fifth generation of ICBM's, SS-24's, SS-25's and a new type of strategic bomber will be operational. The number of SS-20's will be further increased.

According to a US news report, the Soviet Union is embarking on large-scale nuclear expansion. Without a nuclear limitation agreement, the number of Soviet nuclear warheads could increase from the present 10,000 to 30,000 by the early nineties, and the number of ground-launched missiles from 6,000 to 22,000 by 1995. All this will undoubtedly damage US-Soviet relations and increase political tension between them.

However, for the time being and in the foreseeable future, neither superpower can break the balance of strategic forces and neither dare take the risk of launching war. And more significantly, the forces for peace in the world are growing stronger and stronger, and we are confident that world peace can be won through the concerted efforts of all peace-loving people the world over. ■

LABOUR REFORM

Making a Dint in the 'Iron Rice Bowl'

On September 9, the State Council promulgated four sets of regulations on reforming China's labour system. "Beijing Review" interviewed He Guang, Minister of Labour and Personnel, on the aims and content of the reform.



According to Minister of Labour and Personnel He Guang, the reform of the labour system is aimed at eliminating the defects of the "iron rice bowl" practice, placing the relationship between workers and enterprises on a rational basis in order to meet the needs of a planned commodity economy.

The existing system of labour relations at state-owned enterprises was introduced soon after the founding of the People's Republic in 1949. Its main feature was the centralized assignment of labour in urban areas. Once a person was given a job in a factory, he or she would remain with that factory for the rest of his or her life, receiving wages and insurance benefits according to state regulations. This system, which was commensurate with a highly centralized economic system, once played a positive role in ensuring full employment and rapid economic growth. But with the passage of time, and in a changed economic situation, this system has proved to be stiflingly rigid and the resultant practice of the "iron rice bowl" has become so

defective that it must be changed.

Since 1982, Minister He said, China has carried out reforms on a trial basis in a number of cities of varying sizes and has gained a certain amount of experience in this respect. The recent government decision covers the following four areas.

Contract System

With the reform Chinese enterprises will operate a labour contract system in recruiting workers. On the basis of negotiations conducted on an equal footing, the enterprise and the would-be worker will sign a contract that sets out the length of his or her employment, as well as the obligations, responsibilities, rights and interests of both sides. Anyone who violates the contract will be held responsible for the consequences. The relationship between worker and enterprise ends on the termination of the contract, which can, however, be renewed if both sides agree.

Under the contract system, workers and staff enjoy the same rights and economic benefits as workers under the old system. The only changes are that wages include bonuses for above-quota work done, and labour insurance benefits have been trimmed back.

The contract labour system retains many of the good points of the former fixed-job system, but it is believed its enforcement will make it possible to eliminate the defects of the old system. The contracted working period is to be flexible, long or short, and workers will enjoy a certain

freedom in the selection of jobs. Moreover, an enterprise is given the necessary decision-making powers in the deployment of its work force. The new practice will therefore promote the movement of workers within and between work places in a rational way.

Examination System

A few years ago Chinese cities were overloaded with job-seeking young people who had graduated from middle school but had failed to get into a college or university. In this situation some state enterprises took on the children of workers and staff to take their place when they retired, even though they were less qualified than some other young job hunters.

In future, state enterprises will advertise openings for new workers, and recruit from the public those who have been proved qualified physically and morally. In this way workers will be able to find jobs they want by sitting in an examination, and enterprises will be able to recruit workers they need most. This new practice will give full play to the enthusiasm of workers and also improve enterprise management.

Power to Dismiss Workers

Among existing factory workers there is a handful of people who have seriously violated labour discipline. Although their conduct seriously affected other workers, they were still not considered "qualified" to be dismissed. Now the State Council

has authorized enterprises to dismiss those who continue to violate work rules after being warned and disciplined. The State Council has also laid down provisions and procedures concerning the dismissal of workers. This move is aimed at strengthening labour discipline, maintaining normal production regimes, while clarifying and protecting the interests and rights of workers and staff. If a dismissed worker disagrees with the decision to dismiss him or her, he or she may appeal to a tribunal of the labour department concerned which will adjudicate according to relevant regulations on labour disputes. The state will adopt appropriate measures to deal with people who are laid-off and will provide them with certain benefits until they have found new jobs.

Two Insurance Systems

China is to bring in two systems of labour insurance for the unemployed and retired to underpin the contract system and the two regulations on the dismissal of workers for violating work rules, and deal with problems arising from enterprises going bankrupt.

The retirement insurance scheme will also apply to new workers from the time they are recruited. Money for pensions will be largely derived from enterprises, at a rate of 15 percent of their total wage bill. Contract workers will also have to pay into the fund 3 percent of their monthly wages.

Unemployment benefits will be available to help four categories of people—workers of bankrupt enterprises, workers released by enterprises on the point of bankruptcy as a way of improving their productivity, workers dismissed for violating work rules, and workers whose contracts have expired. Insurance funds will be collected from enterprises at a rate of 1 percent of their wage bill. While waiting for new jobs, laid-off workers will receive 50-75 percent of their previous wages. Those who have spent five years in their job will receive unemployment pay for two years. Those who have worked for less than five years will receive benefits for up to one year. This is aimed at encouraging jobless workers to find new jobs again.

When asked whether the contract system will erode the position of workers as masters of society, Minister He said that the

social position of workers depends upon who owns the means of production. The contract system will merely cement the relationship between workers and enterprise by means of a contract. It will not touch public ownership of the means of production. On the contrary it will contribute to reinforcing public ownership and facilitate the implementation of distribution to each according to his work. It is therefore socialist in nature. Like workers with fixed jobs, contractual workers are masters of society and receive a fair share for their labour.

The minister also said that in the past many people regarded the superiority of socialism as consisting in the "iron rice bowl" labour system, and distribution by "everyone eating from the same big pot." This is obviously a distorted understanding. "From each according to his ability" is the basis of "to each according to his work." Minister He said that people should make a contribution first before getting something in return. "Our policy is geared to rewarding the diligent and punishing the lazy. As the 'iron rice bowl' and 'big pot' practice has the completely opposite effect, they must be done away with," Minister He added.



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Minorities Sports Games Colourful

by Our Correspondent Dai Yannian

The Third Chinese National Minorities Traditional Games were held August 7-17 in Urumqi, capital of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. More than 700 athletes from the 55 minority nationalities competed in the eight-day games which featured seven events—flat horse racing, target archery, crossbow archery, wrestling, swinging, sheep vying and the team cracker contest as well as colourful traditional displays.

China is a multinational country, and all of her 55 ethnic groups have their own forms of sport. To encourage the sporting development of the Chinese ethnic minorities, the state government started a series of national minorities games events in the early years of Chinese liberation.

The first games were held in 1953 in Tianjin. Only a dozen ethnic minorities took part in five competitive events. At the 1982 Second National Minorities Games, only two competitive events of target archery and wrestling were held in Hohhot, capital of the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region. The Chinese State Physical Culture and Sports Commission gave the event a boost by making games into a quadrennial event. The next games are scheduled to be staged in Nanning, capital of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, in 1990.

New Events

The Third Chinese National Minorities Traditional Games were a grand gathering for the Chinese minority nationality people from northwest, southwest, northeast and south China. Of the seven major events, the

newly added sheep vying and team cracker contest aroused the greatest excitement.

Sheep vying, a folk sport popular in northwest China, especially with the Kazakhs, Khalkhas,

Team cracker contest, or Chinese-style rugby scored a hit at the games. It originated in Guangxi in south China about 500 years ago. The game is divided into two 20-minute halves during which 10 players take the field.



"Sheep Vying."

WU WENBIAO

Uygurs and Tajiks, is a cross between basketball and horsemanship.

Two teams of six horse riders each play in an oval field, 330 metres at its longest and 150 metres at its widest. The game is played in two 25-minute sessions with a 10-minute break in between. At each end of the field there is a basket, 2.7 metres above the ground and 1.5 metres in diameter. The players, all on horseback, start from the middle of the field, and compete to grab a sheep carcass, beheaded and eviscerated, and try to throw it into their own basket. Once the carcass is in the basket a point is scored, the winner is the team with the higher score. In this case the tournament winner was a Xinjiang team.

During the game, the cracker—an iron ring wrapped in red silk—is launched 10 metres into the air by a miniature cannon at the centre of the field (60 metres by 50 metres). At each end is a scoring area six metres wide. Once a player reaches the scoring area with the cracker his team scores a point. But since the cracker is only five centimetres in diameter it can be easily hidden in a palm. Winning a game, therefore, depends not only on strength and toughness but also on quick guess work.

Despite three referees and two score judges, the play can be rough, with bleeding noses and scratched faces. Anyone who kicks or bites though, is yellow-booked and sidelined for two minutes while anyone who causes intentional injuries is sent off.

Teams from five provinces and autonomous regions took part in the 10-round tournament, the Guangxi team carried off the championship.

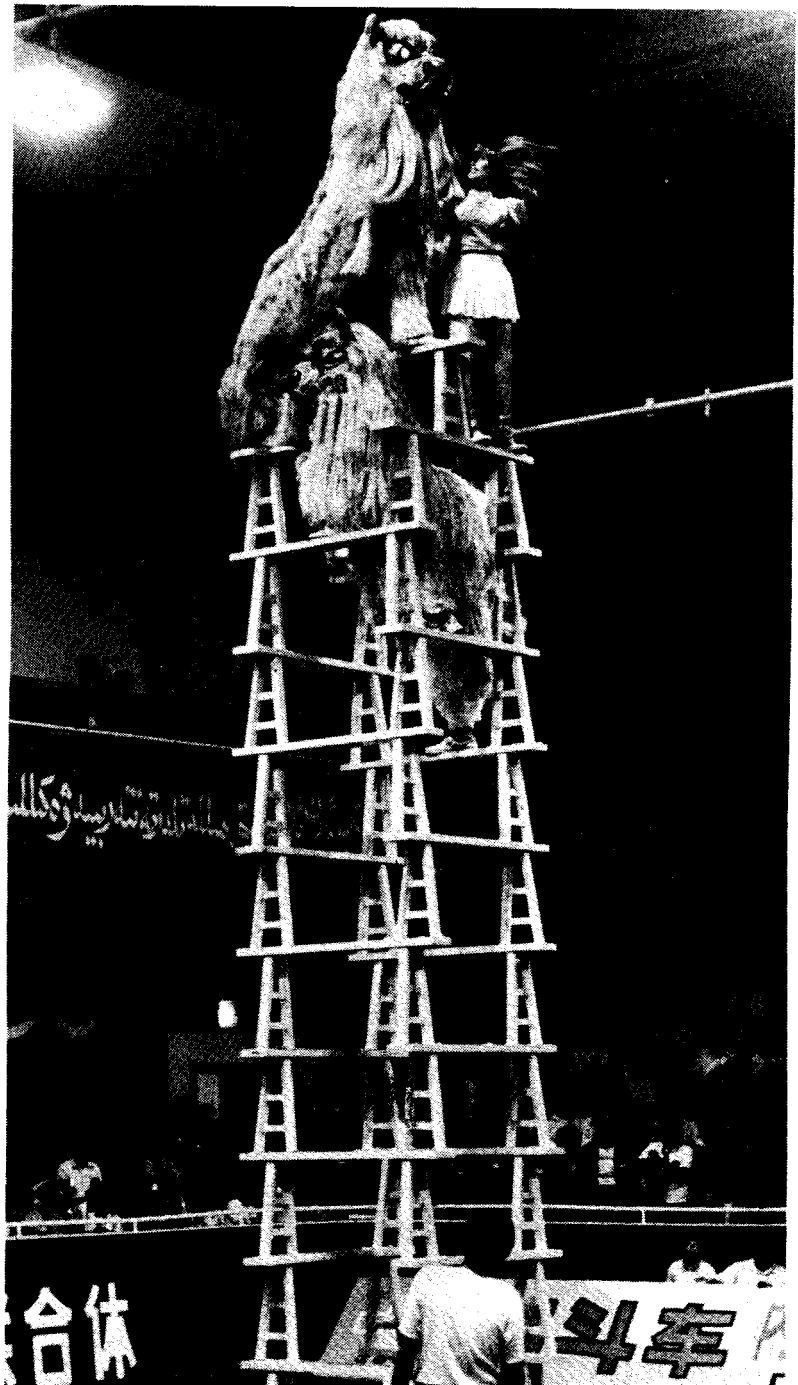
Folk Sports Events

During the Urumqi national minorities games, a total of 115 exhibition performances was given, 47 more than at the last games. A spokesman for the organizing committee said these ethnic displays of colour and skill added elements of wonder and entertainment to the thrill of the competitions.

Rope walking, or "Dawazi" in Uygur, is a traditional Uygur event handed down from ancient time. The rope extends from the ground at an angle of 45° to the top of a 30-metre-high mast. A barefoot teenage girl, carrying eight porcelain bowls on her head and holding a balancing pole, walks to the sound of Uygur music up and down the rope. Very often she will do the "Flying bird spreads her wings" movement, or the "Golden chick handstand." A legend tells that the art began when a youngster invented "Dawazi" to move up into the air to fight and kill a demon which lived there. As the flag on top of the mast flutters in the wind, nothing in the world seems more gripping, or more intricate than the girl's motions.

Lions climb golden mountain is another moving demonstration of skill. The golden mountain is composed of 17 layers of benches, the top layer being 8.5 metres above the bottom layer. Two or four players in "lions' hides" and with silvery bells around their necks, climb layer by layer as the audience looks on agape.

The performance by the team from Tianyang County, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, was the most exciting. According to Huang Zuoquang, the team



Zhuang nationality players perform "Lions Climb Golden Mountain."

CHEN ZONGLIE

leader, in ancient time his hometown was haunted by monsters during the harvest. People wove images of the lion, supposed to be the king of beasts, out of bamboo fragments. They

wheeled the lions out amid the din of gongs and drums and scared the monsters away. The people of later generations perfected the lion display to celebrate their ancestors' triumph. Now in Tianyang

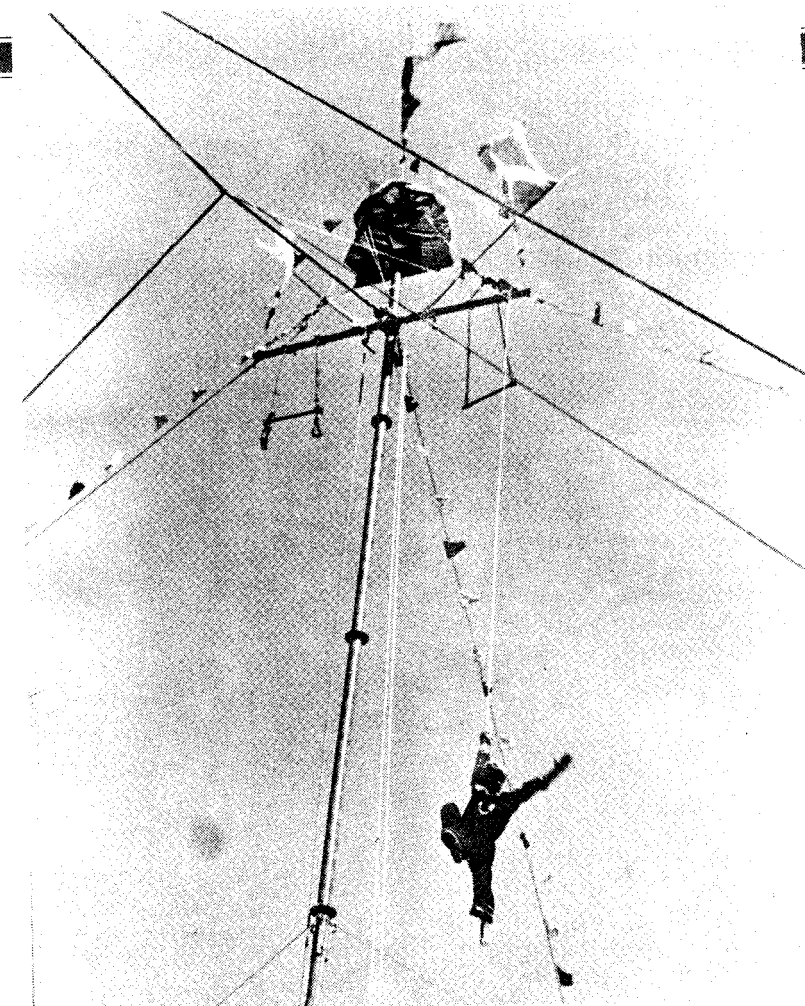
County, Huang said, most of the villages have lion dancing teams and the "Lions climb golden mountain" was worked up especially for the sports meet.

The Miao nationality players imitated cocks fighting and bulls in combat with musical accompaniment; the Gaoshan nationality players performed "Bamboo-basket ball," with the men throwing balls into bamboo-baskets carried by attractively dressed girls in front of them—a sport which evolved from the wooing habits of the Gaoshan nationality living on both sides of the Taiwan Strait; the "Tug-of-war" performed by Tibetan players, was played not with the hands but with the neck!

Of the exhibition events, 80 percent were competitive.

Modern and Traditional Sports

Modern sports games began to find favour with young people of minority nationalities with the founding of the People's Republic, and many minority nationality sportsmen and sportswomen became good and successful. They include Li Ning of Zhuang nationality, who won the rings championship at the 1984 World Gym Tournament and three gold medals at the 23rd Olympic Games; Jin Dongxian of the Manchu nationality, who broke the world record of 200-M small-



"Dawazi"

CHEN ZONGLIE

bore rifle shooting in 1975; Luo Zhihuan of Korean nationality, who won the 1,000-M speed skating championship in a world contest; and Mu Xiangxiong of the Hui nationality, who broke the world records for the 100-M

breaststroke three times in succession.

The flourishing of modern sports among the minority nationality peoples does not mean the withering of traditional events. On the contrary, they are seen as part of the various traditional cultures including the national sports culture as a whole, and are developed accordingly.

Minority nationality traditional sports games, along with single-event contests or performances, have been held in various provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions. This has helped spread these sports and boost their development among the minority nationality people. At present, physical culture departments are working to discover more about ethnic traditional sports. ■

A scrum at the "Team Cracker Contest."

CHEN ZONGLIE



Will China's Typhoon-Disasters Blow Over?

by Our Correspondent Yang Xiaobin and Guest Correspondent Liu Nanchang

Every summer coastal provinces in southeast China are hit by typhoons from the Pacific. But the typhoons that occurred this year were fiercer than usual. In July this year, for example, two force 12 typhoons struck Guangdong Province. Of the 6 million people live in the affected area, 200 died as 200-400 mm rain fell each day, and 2 billion yuan's worth of damage was sustained.

According to Ling Botang, deputy-governor of Guangdong Province and head of the Provincial Disaster Headquarters, it was the worst disaster since liberation in 1949. "We did our best to minimize the losses. Now production and people's lives have returned to normal. The violent typhoons tested our ability to control disasters and showed up our weaknesses in handling water control," Ling said. A great deal goes into protecting an area from the danger of a typhoon.

Prompt Forecasting

On July 8, the Central Meteorological Observatory sent out a warning through TV, radio and local meteorological stations that a violent typhoon would hit Guangdong in 72 hours. The precious hours gave people there some time to prepare for the onslaught. Some 10,000 fishing vessels were brought back before the typhoon struck. In August, Ling Botang went to the Central Meteorological Observatory himself to express his heartfelt thanks for its timely forecast.

Fan Yongxiang, of the Central Meteorological Observatory, said, "Now China's typhoon forecasts have reached general world standards. Our prediction was within 200 kilometres of the point where the typhoon hit land."

Since the 1970s, China has mastered the technology of analysing the cloud-charts trans-

mitted from meteorological satellites. Everyday the Central Meteorological Observatory receives 10 cloud-charts from Japanese and American meteorological satellites. According to these cloud-charts, the weather forecasts from the American, Japanese and Hong Kong's Meteorological Observatories and other measurements, China can make accurate typhoon forecasts.

At the end of 1985 at an international symposium on tropical climates in Thailand, Chinese experts' ideas and their achievements in weather forecasting were well received by the other experts.

Recently China has developed a new method of analysing the cloud-charts, Fan added. The signals from the meteorological satellite are processed into 16 colour-charts which mark the typhoon's centre, intensity and track very clear. The Central Meteorological Observatory has also discovered some new methods of weather forecasting, including the dynamics forecast, statistics forecast and numerical forecast. In two years China will launch a new meteorological satellite, and a synchronous meteorological satellite before 1990. It is very clear that the modern weather forecasts will strengthen the defence capability

and help in the management of natural disaster.

A Defensive System

When the Guangdong Provincial Disaster Headquarters received the typhoon warning from the Central Meteorological Observatory last July, it alerted the coastal areas of Guangdong about the disaster right away through the standard command and message-transmission system. In the three days they had the disaster control groups at different levels mobilize 10,000 cadres to fight the disaster. More than 1 million people, including the local soldiery, worked for several days to protect dikes and reservoirs; about 10 million people helped bringing in the rice harvests, and more than 100,000 civilians moved from old houses before the typhoon struck. Emergency materials including straw sacks, cement, timber, steels, food and medicines were sent to the disaster areas.

The coastal areas of Guangdong Province were hit very hard, in some places the rainfall averaged more than 750 mm a day. Although many people had worked for several days to protect the dikes and dams. The flood and sea tide breached the defence in 15,000 places. Lin Ruo, an official of the Provincial Disaster Head-

Farmers in Jieyang County, Guangdong Province repairing a dyke breached by the flood.

CHEN XUESI



quarters and Secretary of Guangdong Provincial Party Committee, then ordered more than 510,000 people, who were stranded by floods, to be sent to safety in time. The Central Flood Control Headquarters, on behalf of the State Council, later sent Guangdong a congratulatory telegram for the work done.

Disaster Relief

People in the typhoon stricken areas in Guangdong plunged into reconstruction of their homeland soon after the typhoons were over. The Ministry of Civil Affairs earmarked 2.5 million yuan for Guangdong Province and the provincial government provided another 10 million yuan for disaster relief. This does not include the relief funds allocated by local municipal and county governments. But the funds were not enough to cover all the losses, and for the most part the people relied on their own strength.

"The people's ability to fight the disaster was much greater than expected," said Zhang Yanming, secretary of the Meijiang District of Meixian City. The heavy downpours affected 1,000 hectares of farmland and damaged 1,700 dwellings in the district. But nobody asked for the relief fund from the district government, all they requested was rice seeds. By now the farmers have bought 50,000 kilogrammes of seeds, enough for this year.

An old man showed us the chest-high watermark on the wall of his grocery shop and said that he was over 70 and had experienced four floods in Meixian, but this was the worst. The first one was in 1925. Although he was only nine at that time, he had to leave his home. In 1960, Meixian was hit by another flood. The government provided his family with relief grain. The next was in 1970, and it was his friends who helped him. This time his grocery

lost more than 1,000 yuan, but that was only a small proportion of his property.

In Punin County, the typhoon damaged Li Zhenguang's hectare of bananas. But he received over 10,000 yuan in compensation from the local insurance company. An official of the provincial insurance company said his company had paid out 11.3 million yuan in damages to 500 units and persons by the end of July, and would have an estimated total of 25 million yuan to pay.

Lin Youxin, a farmer in Lufeng County, did not take out insurance and lost 100,000 yuan on his 10-hectare banana orchard through this natural disaster. When Guo Rongchang, deputy secretary of the provincial Party committee, expressed sympathy for him, he said that he could build up his family fortunes again if the government provided him with a loan. The county department agreed to give him the loan at once. According to the Provincial Agricultural Bank, the three cities of Shantou, Huiyang and Meixian have received 60 million yuan in loans from the government.

By the end of July, 60,000 hectares of early rice had been reaped in the disaster-affected areas. At the same time, the farmers expanded the area of late rice under cultivation. The reason that the agricultural production has been so soon resumed is connected with the responsibility system in the countryside which has allowed farmers to save up "for a rainy day." According to the *Nanfeng Daily*, by the middle of this year the total rural savings in Guangdong Province had reached 11.12 billion yuan, up 2.05 billion yuan from the end of the previous year; this represents per-capita savings of 225 yuan, up 41.5 yuan.

Liu Kang, of the Water Resources and Electric Power Department of Guangdong Province, said that the extent of the

damage caused by the typhoons was unexpected and exceeded the limited ability to fight it. Most coastal areas were struck by the two force 12 typhoons and high tides, but many dikes could only resist force 10 typhoons and their accompanying high tides. At the same time many dikes and dams had not been repaired for a long time, so many of them were breached. The worst effects were in the Meijiang and Hanjiang River valleys.

Liu Kang added that in recent years the drainage system had been neglected throughout the country. Last summer the Liaohhe, the major river of northeastern China's Liaoning Province, flooded and alerted people to the general danger. Tian Jiyun, vice-premier of the State Council, had on many occasions warned against possible crisis caused by the negligence. This prompted Guangdong Province to begin repairing its major water-works last winter. This timely repair helped reduce some of the typhoon damage.

At the time many people were unrealistically optimistic, but now the need to maintain the drainage system has been brought home to all.

The provincial government has decided to regard water management as a high priority and has prepared to adopt some important measures to improve it. It plans to increase investment in water-management system to at least 180 million yuan, the highest annual water management allocation in the province's history; to coordinate irrigation and electricity-generating; to establish a water administration structure and to collect fees on the use of water from the farmers and apportion them the various repair tasks. The provincial government plans to hold a meeting on water-management and assign the building work for this winter and next spring. ■

China's Young and Promising Composers

by Song Xin

A group of young composers schooled in Western theories of music and techniques are blazing new trails in contemporary music in China by blending traditional Chinese instrumental compositions with modern musical ideas from the West. The resulting works are at once innovative and distinctly Chinese.

The first achievements of these new composers were made in the late 1970s. During that period, some used the Western twelve-tone system in music for ancient Chinese poems. Some others paid more attention to the progress and changes in Western music and used its theories to express Chinese themes.

In 1983, China for the first time sent young composers to the international Weber Chamber Music Compositions Competition in Dresden, the German Democratic Republic. The four pieces chosen for the competition were unique combinations of modern Western techniques and Chinese musical traditions. China's piece for string quartet, composed by Tan Dun, a 29-year-old student from the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, placed second among the 82 selections contributed by musicians from 25 countries and regions. This piece, entitled "Feng, Ya and Song"—the ballads, dynastic hymns and sacrificial songs from the three different sections of the Chinese 3,000-year-old *Book of Songs*—was composed in three movements especially to showcase the talent, skill and adept orchestration of China's national music through modern techniques.

Tan later wrote another variation for the *Guzheng* (a 7-stringed plucked instrument) and *Xiao* (a vertical flute), in which the melody of the *Guzheng* and the tone of the

flute create a sound that is full of emotion and colour. The movements alternate in tone in such a way as to demonstrate harmony, simplicity and classic elegance. Tan Dun also composed a work for Chinese wind and percussion instruments, again blending folk music and melodies with his hometown's ballads. The result is a piece that is jubilant and cheerful.

Tan Dun, a native of Hunan Province, began studying the violin and conducting in primary school. He worked in the countryside for two years after graduation from middle school. There he was deeply fascinated by folk music. Then he tried to set Hunan's *Huagu* (flower-drum) opera to music and was later employed as a violinist for a Beijing opera troupe. In 1978, Tan Dun entered the Central Conservatory. He said his music idols include Nie Er (1912-35), the composer of the national anthem, who, Tan Dun said, had a flair for art and was major innovator. Tan also respects Johannes Brahms (1833-97), whose works, he said, "are profound and full of wit." He said George Frederick Handel (1685-1759) was capable of "inspiring heroism and noble feelings in people," and that he regards Ludwig Van Beethoven (1770-1827) as a blend of Brahms and Handel." Tan is, however, devoted to musical geniuses from the past, very much in favour of breaking from tradition and experimenting with new ideas.

Qu Xiaosong, 33, another student of the Central Conservatory, was born in Guiyang, Guizhou Province. He was assigned to work as a farmer in a mountainous village and settled there after graduation from middle school. In 1973, Qu began

studying the violin. A year later, he was accepted as a viola player for the Guiyang Beijing opera troupe, where he worked until 1978 when he was admitted to the conservatory.

Most of Qu's pieces are clear and uncluttered and evoke images of the countryside. Mountains are one of the recurring themes in Qu's works and are particularly evident in works such as "The Mountain Song," "Girl of the Mountain," "the Mountain and Native Customs," "Valley" and "String Quartet." Each of these works is based on either folk songs or inspired by nature. Qu has received numerous awards for his music. "The Mountain Song," a piece for cello and orchestra, won first prize in the Chinese Music Compositions Contest sponsored by the Tcherepnin Foundation in the United States in 1982. The following year, Qu's "Girl of the Mountain," a piece for violin and orchestra, also won first place in a Central Conservatory compositions contest. In the National Chamber Music Composition Competition in 1985, another of Qu's works was awarded for its originality.

Typical of Qu's recent works is a piece that Qu infuses with what he calls man's most primitive sounds. He said he wanted the work to explore the tranquility and peace of primitive humans and nature. Qu chose the *Xun*, a Chinese wind instrument first used 5,000 to 6,000 years ago and the *Danxian*, a single-string instrument popular with the Jing nationality in south China, and an assortment of percussion instruments. Qu said he was trying to recreate the harshness of early man's sound. He said he wanted to create a virgin domain where the audience could feel the

simplicity, the primitive dynamics and tranquility of the earth centuries ago. "I sought a primitive world where the relationship between man and nature was harmonious. Because this relationship has been ruined in the course of mankind's evolution and many good things have been lost, I hope they can be recovered."

In his earliest work "Valley," Qu began with these words: "When you hear yourself in the stillness of mountains, time extends into the infinity of the past and future." Qu said he attempts to give all his works a simple feel. Qu emphasizes that although he has been influenced by Bela Bartok (1881-1945) and Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971), he does not intend to desert Chinese traditions. "I only wish to foster new works from them," he said.

Qu, who also teaches at the conservatory, is now expanding his repertoire. His most recent two-part concerto eulogizes the countryside of north China: plains, desert, sunshine, stone-carvings, pottery figurines, paper-cuttings and folk theatres. The harshness of the *suona*, the rumblings of drums and gongs and the crisp ensemble of strings and other wind instruments, together suggest the author's devotion to folk culture.

Ye Xiaogang, born into a family of musicians, expresses more personal thoughts in his compositions. Ye also took part in the 1982 Tcherepnin Foundation Chinese Music Compositions Contest in the United States. He won first prize for a piece involving the *Guqin* and the cello, entitled "Chinese Poem."

In 1985, when he was 30 years old, Ye wrote a symphony entitled "Horizon," which he said was meant to extol the strength and awakening of the people. In December 1985, the debut of this piece was a success and demonstrated Ye's sound understanding of life and society.

"I think, some Western musical techniques and methods that have disrupted the balance of rhythms, intensified variation of tone and stressed performing techniques are similar to those found in Chinese folk music," Ye said. "Assimilating some of these methods, therefore, should improve the Chinese national music."

"However," he added, "I have learnt much more from national folk music than from Western music."

A concert of Qu Xiaosong's works played by the Central Philharmonic Orchestra.



Chen Yi, a postgraduate of the Central Conservatory, spent eight years with the Beijing opera troupe in Guangzhou as the first violinist. She said she is not only interested in the folk music but in opera as well.

After her first solo recital, which was held in Beijing in May 1986, a member of the audience said her piece, "Budding," "was full of a woman's charms," and that it had a "feeling of universal love." "Budding," which is a string concerto, was written in three parts, and the polyphony technique was used to suggest drifting illusion, Chen said.

Another of Chen's pieces, a piano concerto, won first prize in the 1984 National Musical Compositions Competition. Chen said the concerto is based on a traditional dance of the Dong



Tan Dun receives second prize at the 1983 International Weber Chamber Music Competition for Composers from the mayor of Dresden.

WANG TINGYING



minority from south China. She said she was fascinated by the unique ceremony the Dong people use to welcome their guests. She said she discovered the ceremony when she went to a remote village in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region to collect folk songs in 1980. The ceremony, she said, requires one to be the guest who will sing extemporaneously while the rest echo in harmony and slowly dance around the visitor. She said she tried to inject all the simplicity and warmth of the welcome ceremony into the concerto. Later, she said she reworked the piece for strings. In the new piece, Chen said, the mood is intensified with colourful intonations and its layers unfold freely showing both national and modern musical influences.

Chen's viola concerto was inspired by a folk music popular in Chaozhou in south China. She said she used a cadenza to highlight the viola, and called up each of the other instruments to play the same element with different tempos and dynamics to

produce the desired effect with modern methods.

"At the conservatory I learnt many of the rules guiding musical composition," Chen said. "But, I only apply those principles that are helpful to my creations."

Last June, these young Chinese composers took part in the first Contemporary Chinese Composers Festival in Hong Kong, where they met and exchanged experiences with many other Chinese artists from other parts of the mainland, Hong Kong and overseas.

In comparison with their predecessors, these young musicians are working in an environment more conducive to musical creativity. They have the chance to learn from diverse cultures. They are also maturing as a generation and constantly trying to improve their works so that they reflect China's singular national quality and the spirit of the time. In so doing, these and other young Chinese artists are advancing China's golden era of musical creation.

More Power to Factory Directors

"HONG QI"

(Red Flag)

A system whereby factory directors alone take full responsibility for production and management is essential for the reform of China's economic structure, and to boost production. The kernel of what is known as the director responsibility system is the strict responsibility assumed by directors and the principle of combining this responsibility with certain power. The new system has been tried out in 27,000 enterprises throughout the country since 1984.

The old system of directors taking responsibility under the leadership of Party committees was brought in with the founding of New China in 1949. The major drawback of this system was the lack of clear division of work between the Party and government.

As part of China's continuing economic reform, the functions of the government are being separated from those for enterprise management, and the ownership of enterprises is being separated from the right to manage them. As a result they will become relatively independent commodity producers and dealers, with both full authority for management and the

responsibility for profits and losses.

Directors thus serve as both administrative heads of enterprises and as their legal representatives accountable to the state, to the enterprise and to its employees. Since directors are responsible for production and management, they must clearly have full authority for making management decisions, directing production and choosing their assistants.

The new system has made it possible to overcome the drawback of the old system, which was to separate decision-making powers from the right to direct production. It has introduced initiative-based responsibility, and hence unified management and improved job efficiency. The right of directors to choose their assistants is essential to decision-making. Under the new system, directors can appoint deputy directors, as well as workshop and section chiefs according to their actual needs.

While introducing the director responsibility system, it is also necessary to improve the workers' congress and other democratic management systems, so that trade unions and workers can have a say in examining major policy decisions, supervising the leadership and protecting their own rights and interests.

Debate of Political Issues Encouraged

"RENMIN RIBAO"

(People's Daily)

The argument that a demarcation should be drawn between political and academic issues has prevailed in China for a long time.

On the "gate" of political issues, there seemed to be an official notice: Hold your tongue, please. Terrified, many people had to skirt around it.

In his speech at the recent national conference on social science, however, Vice-Premier

Wan Li removed the restriction. This is undoubtedly very important for perfecting and developing China's socialist democracy.

Past experience has borne out the fact that political issues have always been intermixed with academic ones. In studying historical problems or current social phenomena, academic issues can hardly be separated from political ones. Some academic issues involve, or even include political issues, some others are themselves political issues.

Why then should it be deemed necessary to distinguish political issues from academic ones since it is almost impossible to do so? This is because a premise has been established. That is, only academic issues can be studied, discussed and debated, but political issues cannot. It seems that those who dare to study, discuss and argue over political issues are committing a great offence and are politically questionable.

The premise is obviously absurd. In the old society, it was not strange for the people to be warned against "talking about state affairs," as they had no power. In socialist new China, the people have become the masters of the country, and there is no reason to prohibit them from studying, discussing and debating political issues that have much to do with their own interest.

All power belongs to the people; the people administer the affairs of the country, according to the provisions of the law, through various channels and in various forms; citizens enjoy freedom of speech and the press. All this has been solemnly prescribed in the Constitution. The Constitution vests in every citizen the sacred and inalienable right to air his or her views on political issues, and discuss and argue over them.

Of course, political issues cover a wide field. Some relate to policies and need to be decided on. They can be discussed before decisions

are made. When relevant leading departments make decisions, all should follow in implementing these decisions. If differing views arise, these can only be aired within certain limits and through certain channels. This is understandable.

The reason stated here is by no means obscure. At the time when the "leftist" guiding ideology prevailed, during the "cultural revolution" in particular, the socialist principles of democracy were scrapped and trampled on. A strange phenomenon therefore occurred: Whoever raised different opinions on political issues or engaged in any studies or discussions of political issues was considered politically questionable and subjected to investigation or worse.

The Third Plenary Session of the Party's 11th Central Committee in 1978 opened a new stage for building socialist democracy. Only then was political freedom restored to its original sense, being changed from a concern of just a few statesmen to that of millions upon millions of people. But the view that discussion of political issues is not allowed still holds sway. A few comrades are still accustomed to picking out a phrase or two from others' speeches or articles, arbitrarily turning academic matters into political matters, or even labelling them as "opposing the four basic principles (referring to adherence to Communist Party leadership, the socialist road, the people's democratic dictatorship and Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought)." To them, whoever dares to offer different views on actual political issues is committing a grave offence.

If such views are not changed, and if such practices are not done away with, how can a lively political atmosphere be fully created?

The four basic principles must be adhered to, and Party discipline and state laws must be

observed. It is required by these principles, however, that people should be allowed to discuss state affairs. Moreover, it is not enough merely to allow the people to talk about state affairs; they should be

encouraged and offered opportunities to express their views on political issues. We must foster this new idea on the way to building a high level of socialist democracy. ■

More Financial Lawyers Needed

"JINGJI RIBAO"

(Economic Daily)

With the growing number of contacts between different enterprises, financial disputes are on the increase. Moreover, with the more frequent economic contacts with foreign countries, many problems have to be solved by legal means.

According to incomplete statistics, 30,000 enterprises have invited lawyers to act as their legal advisers. Some have their own legal departments. In some places non-legal workers have become qualified part-time lawyers after training, making important contributions to enterprise management and in other directions.

However, the number of competent financial lawyers fails to meet the needs of the current economic reform. The total number of full-time and part-time lawyers in China is no more than 20,000. But how many industrial and commercial enterprises are there in China? About 1 million state-owned and 3.6 million collective-owned industrial and commercial establishments. If there were one lawyer to every 10 enterprises, 460,000 lawyers would be needed. If 20 enterprises share one lawyer, then 230,000 lawyers will be needed. Most full-time lawyers at present are law graduates of the 1950s and early 1960s who stopped practising during the "cultural revolution" and have picked up their profession again only since the late 1970s. Many of them lack knowledge of economic affairs.

So how to remedy the inadequacy of financial lawyers?

1. Legal advisers' offices should assign lawyers to enterprises to be their legal advisers, to sign contracts and handle economic disputes. In big enterprises, legal advisers' departments should be set up to train their own lawyers to handle their economic affairs.

2. In addition to selecting lawyers from among university and college law graduates, we can train a number of competent financial workers to become qualified lawyers.

3. Financial lawyers should be given adequate salaries so they will be happy to undertake the work. ■



Consultancy Services Doing Well

It would be better for China to import aluminium than produce it itself. It would be still better to run our aluminium works abroad." This is the conclusion of the China Investment Consultants Co. in its 10-year development plan for China's non-ferrous metal industry.

sions are mostly accepted by the state policy makers. Its evaluation of Shanghai's sewage treatment project helped save 100 million yuan on the sewage discharge outlet and US\$20 million on a hydropower plant, both of which were designed by Australian and American experts.



SUN PING

People from a consultancy institution report to the leaders of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and the State Council.

Consultancy started in China in 1980. To date, there are some 10,000 agencies, with 100,000 full time and part time consultants. Guangzhou has 345 consultancy institutions, with staffs of 3,700; Shanghai has 246, with 2,000 members; Tianjin has 100 and Beijing has several hundred. One third of these specialize exclusively in foreign trade consultation, and another third have such expertise as part of their services.

China's consultancy agencies fall into four categories.

(1) Comprehensive: The 10 most influential agencies which undertake consultation on major projects are included here. The China International Engineering Consulting Corp. under the State Economic Commission, is the nation's largest, and its conclu-

The oldest and most famous internationally is the China International Economic Consultants, Inc. (CIEC). Its policies of "independence, fairness and objectiveness" have gained CIEC a long clients' list including the Sino-US Shanxi Pingshuo Coal Mine, the Sino-Japanese Jiangsu-Suntory Food Co. and the Sino-Japanese China Nantong Rikio Co. Ltd. It won the confidence of one of its latest clients, Sino-US joint venture China Tianjin Otis Elevator Co., with its market studies, feasibility studies, and advice on accounting, auditing and legal affairs.

Shen Junpo, president of the Economic, Legal and Social Consultancy Centre of the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, which was begun in 1980, told

Beijing Review that his company is the only all-round economic agency in Shanghai which accepts foreign business. To date, it has provided services to some 100 projects without a single failure. One third of Shanghai's 180 joint ventures have enlisted its service.

(2) Consultancy in all China's trade organizations: The largest one is the China Foreign Trade Consultants Co. Recently it helped decision makers stop excessive imports of fried potato chip production lines.

The Shanghai Industrial Consultants (SIC) is doing brisk business. Tao Zuji, its general manager, told *Beijing Review* that his company is a private business with 42 employees. Since its establishment in 1982, its volume of business has increased by 80 percent every year. Its total income over these four years amounts to 1.65 million yuan, with net profits of 0.68 million yuan. SIC has organized an information network, covering 4,000 domestic and foreign clients. It has collected data on 100,000 firms in 93 countries and has recommended 1,000 foreign clients to more than 40 Chinese factories.

(3) Accounting and finance: The China Consultants of Accounting and Financial Management Inc., under the Ministry of Finance, is the nation's largest of its kind. In the development of China's petroleum resources it has provided auditing services to 90 percent of foreign companies that have participated.

(4) Law: The C and C Law Office, China Global Law Office, China Legal Offices Co. and Hualian Law Office for Economic Trade are the four largest law offices dealing with foreign economic relations. China's foreign relations law offices employ

500 full-time workers and 1,000 part-time workers.

Last August, representatives of 13 large companies in Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai and Guangzhou met in Beijing to discuss the establishment of a consultancy service association. Its preparatory committee will soon hand in its first application to the National People's Congress Standing Committee and the State Council asking that consultancy services to all engineering projects on the mainland be offered wholly or in part to Chinese consultancy agencies. ■

by Yue Haitao

Factory Uses Foreign Technology

The Yingkou Washing Machine Factory in Liaoning Province grew from a small-time affair to one that produces 500,000 washing machines annually, achieving an effect Premier Zhao Ziyang acknowledged as the "Yingkou way."

A small producer of air coolers, the collectively owned factory switched to washing machines in 1980. In 1982 it went into technical co-operation with the National Electric Co. of Japan and assembled twin-tub washing machines. Some 95 percent of the

components were imported and only the casing and electric static spraying were done by the Yingkou factory. By the end of 1985, the whole washing machine was being made in China.

During the process of assimilating foreign techniques, the factory conducted two large-scale technical upgradings, and set up 22 computerized production lines which turn out one top-quality twin-tub washing machine every 38 seconds.

The Yingkou factory has produced 7 models of washing machines, single and twin-tub, which sell well on the domestic market. It has exported 60,000 machines while contracts for another 60,000 have been signed for 1986.

The Yingkou factory has received the "Good Enterprise Management" prize from the Ministry of Light Industry and the "Technical Upgrading with Imported Equipment" prize from the State Economic Commission. Its products have received the top-quality product certificate from the government. At the recommendation of the Ministry of Light Industry, Yingkou washing machines were on display at seven international fairs held in the Soviet Union, Poland, Pakistan, Democratic Germany and

Hungary.

Today, the Yingkou Washing Machine Factory is China's foremost enterprise equipped with advanced technology. Among its 3,405 employees, 158 are technical personnel. The factory has 45.9 million yuan worth of fixed assets including 509 pieces of equipment. ■

by Li Rongxia

Qingdao Imports Embroidery Machine

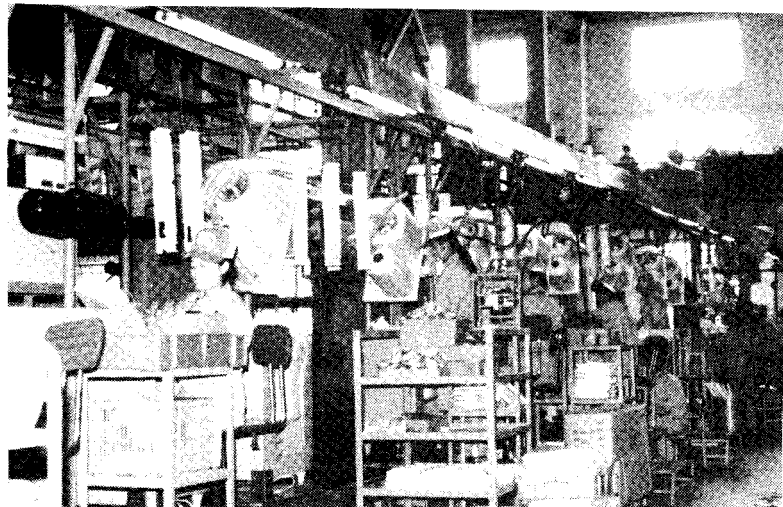
Thirty-five electronic embroidery machines imported from Japan by the Qingdao Embroidery Factory will go into operation next January. An American firm has already asked for exclusive sale rights to their products.

Situated in the coastal city of Qingdao, the factory exports 70 percent of its products to more than 50 countries in Europe, North America and Southeast Asia, as well as Hong Kong and Macao, with half going to the USA. Last year, at a Yugoslav exposition Qingdao's machine embroidered pieces drew great interest for their unique designs, variable stitches and superb technique. Two years ago, the factory sent a group of technicians to stay in San Francisco permanently and design and trial-produce new products for North America. Since then, it has received orders worth US\$1 million.

The factory's output for the first six months of 1986 was worth 6.12 million yuan, 28 percent up over the same period in 1985. Exports have also seen drastic increases. Jiang Xianfa, director of the factory, said the company is preparing to open a branch factory at Qingdao's Huangdao Economic Development Zone, which will be equipped with the most up-to-date technology and special after-treatment processes to improve product quality further. ■

An assembly line in the Yingkou Washing Machine Factory.

ZENG QINGNAN



Novel Extols 'Ordinary' People

One of the three Mao Dun Literature Awards was conferred on Liu Xinwu, a 44-year-old writer, for his new novel *Drum and Bell Towers*, which is a modern tale about a group of Beijing residents. The other two prizes were given to authors Li Zhun and Zhang Jie for their works. More than 450 novels published from 1982 to 1984 were competing for the prize.

The Mao Dun Literature Awards, which are given every three years, is named after the late giant of modern Chinese literature and president of the Chinese Writers' Association. Before his death in 1981, Mao donated 250,000 yuan to reward good writers and promote the development of Chinese literature. The first Mao Dun awards was captured by six novelists in 1982. Because China has not yet established a state literature prize, the Mao Dun Literature Awards filled that role.

Some literary critics have acclaimed *Drum and Bell Towers* for its realistic portrayal of the lives of Beijing people. The distinct aspects of the novel have appealed most to its readers.

The whole novel is set in a typical Beijing courtyard on a single day from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. During the day people gather there to attend a wedding ceremony. The day is jammed with events: The mother-in-law gives the bride a watch, which is later stolen; the cook who works at a small restaurant comes to give a hand; a Beijing opera actress who plans to accompany the bride to the groom's home quarrels with her husband and does not come, and her place is taken by a kind-hearted and frank woman; a veteran worker buys a new watch to replace the lost one without

letting others know. This man has a son who is already engaged and studying abroad. Another girl, however, comes to his home, because her father and this man used to be close friends and had promised once to be in-laws....The novel delves into each of the different stories and paints a believable portrait of modern life in Beijing.

The book also describes many of the physical features of this ancient capital, how people's lives have changed, wedding and funeral ceremonies, and other aspects of city life. It also gives readers an inside look at the lives of Beijing's artists, writers and performers and how "history" has affected them, other people and social values in general.

Under the tranquil surface are changes, movement, problems, joy and sorrow. *Drum and Bell Towers* tries to show how different aspects of life and society have affected its characters, and how through care, respect and understanding people grow.

Drum and Bell Towers deals with the everyday problems of life, and stresses interpersonal relationships. Although the story takes place during only one day, the author makes it seem much longer. He has also broken with tradition by describing the events in a less personal and more objective way.

Kaleidoscopic Characters

"Besides the highrises and many places of interest, Beijing has countless old lanes, which is where I focused my attention," Liu said. "Many of the nation's important people live in the capital. However, most of Beijing's

residents are ordinary people, who play a significant role in the capital's development." This, Liu said, is what led him to write this novel, which runs to 300,000 words, and involves 40 characters of several generations.

The author singled out no one character as central to the story's development. The older generation in the book has gone through hardships and miseries, and their memories make up the centre of their spiritual lives. Among the middle-aged group is a shoe repairman, an editor, and a leading cadre. Those in their 30s and 40s include a career woman, a technical information station master, an engineer, an actress's husband and a doctor. The younger generation includes a university student, a newly rich farmer, and a student. By describing these and other "ordinary" people of diverse backgrounds and interests, the author gives the readers a realistic picture of the lives of today's Beijing residents.

Liu Xinwu said his contact with people like his characters is what gave his novel its believability. The shoe repairman, he said, is modelled on a real repairman in Beijing. "One day I watched him working for about two hours and then we began chatting," Liu said. "Later we came to know each other quite well. I often went to his home to drink and chat." The acquaintance with the man, Liu said, helped him get a closer look at the lives of Beijing residents.

Distinctly Beijing

The characters and happenings in the story are so ordinary and real that many readers have said they could identify with one or

more of the characters.

The story is interwoven with much information about Beijing's geography, folk customs and history, and adds life and beauty to the portrayal. The author maintains that all people are important to contemporary urban civilization. This thought, he said, is what prompted him to write *Drum and Bell Towers*. With the writer's adept arrangement, 40 characters come alive to tell their different stories in a very personal manner. They speak in the typical Beijing dialect, and it is as if they were talking directly to you.

Although the book is heavy on historical information, and some of its plots are hard to believe, *Drum and Bell Towers* is still a good novel that can help readers understand society, history and life.

'Black Cannon' Makes Its Move

When hardworking engineer, translator and chess fan, Zhao Shuxin, falls under suspicion of espionage as he tries to retrieve his lost "black cannon" chess piece, his life becomes a nightmare. He is replaced at work by a less adequate translator, who causes a huge loss to his firm through his mistranslations, and Zhao's life is never the same again.

This is the plot of a newly-released film adapted from the well-known writer Zhang Xianlian's novel *The Romantic Black Cannon* and directed by Huang Jianxin at the Xian Film Studio. The film has received mixed reviews. Most audiences are profoundly struck by the boldness of the subject matter which is still relevant today during China's four modernization drive. The portrayal of a typical Chinese intellectual is also impressive.

Liu Zhifeng, who plays the role of Zhao, carries off Zhao's

character with brilliance as he poignantly acts out the fate of Chinese intellectuals over the past decade. The character of the hero Zhao is reminiscent of Luo Qun in the film *The Legend of Mount Tianyun* and of Xu Lingjun in *The Herdsman*. All three underwent a transformation through adversity. Zhao is the product of the Confucian culture, and the "left" policy imposed on intellectuals destroys his former self. Obviously intellectuals with this kind of cultural psychology cannot shoulder the task of modernizing China, and may serve to teach the Chinese nation how important it is to refresh and improve its culture, and to condition its qualified personnel to be ready for the four modernizations. The style of the film technique itself is distinctively inventive. By combining realistic and stylized surrealistic passages, it experiments with narrative forms and presents its ever more sophisticated film-going audience with a new challenge.

Not everyone is convinced however. Some have dismissed the film by saying that some details are unrealistic, are invented at will. Zhao is a distortion of the image of intellectuals, and obliterates the implementation of the Party's intellectual policy during the new historical period.

The style has also come in for criticism. Its use of realism and super-realism make the film messy and difficult to understand. Some critics have branded the film a failure. ■

Ecological Method Developed

A farming method which increases output through keeping the ecological balance between soil and crops has been developed by a soil scientist in Sichuan Province, southwest China.

Experiments on 66,000 hectares of paddy fields in southern Sichuan over the past three years showed that the per hectare yield was at least one ton more than on farmland cultivated by the traditional method.

Developed by 82-year-old Hou Guangjiong, a professor at the Southwest China Agricultural University, the method is based on his theory of maintaining soil fertility through bacterial action.

According to the theory, high and stable output depends on a sound soil structure formed naturally. The professor believes that ploughing damages this structure.

Under the new method, furrows are dug and filled with water to retain the structure as well as the humidity, air and manure. Rice seedlings are planted on ridges.

Previously, local farmers used to revitalize the fertility of the soil by submerging fields with water in winter. Now they grow an additional wheat crop in this season.

Scientists said the method is of great importance, as in Sichuan alone, about 667,000 low-yielding hectares of paddy fields need improvement.

Hou developed his theory and method over more than 20 years.



YANG YAN

Mountains and Water in Sichuang.
(traditional Chinese painting)

China's Soccer Roots in Dalian

As Beijing's football fans become somewhat indifferent towards their own teams, fans in the Northeastern city of Dalian maintain an unshakable faith and enthusiasm for their local squad. Fans are always seen crowding around the Dalian People's Sports Stadium debating soccer—the World Cup, the national team—but the most heated discussion centres on the Dalian team.

It's true Dalian has been a prime mover behind Chinese football for the past 30 years and possesses many stars of national calibre.

During the First National Football Tournament in 1951, the Northeast team, consisting mainly of Dalian players, won the crown by six victories to one draw, scoring a record 31 goals in a row. The national team formed after this first tournament contained 10 Dalian players. However, only one year later, the Dalian team beat the national team twice

against one defeat. At the end of 1984, when all its top players were included in the national team, the Dalian team topped the group of secondary teams in the nationwide soccer tournament and squeezed into third place in the group of top teams in 1985. Since 1949, the national team has always comprised one-third Dalian players and Dalian has also provided 1,500 excellent kickers for various teams across China. 15 of China's top coaches and most of the national team's goalies are from Dalian.

Workers' soccer teams in Dalian have also made their mark in China. The soccer team of the Dalian Shipyard, on a tour of Beijing, Shanghai, Qingdao and Jinan in 1953, won 10 of the 12 matches and drew with the national and army teams. They were described in the press at the time as "a prairie fire sweeping China." At the first Chinese

workers' games in 1955, the shipyard team scored 38 straight goals. At those games each of the other 12 football teams taking part also had players from Dalian.

Dalian's peasant football teams are undoubtedly the best in China. The famous Qianguang Village team won the first nationwide "Depositing Cup" sponsored by the China Agriculture Bank. Wang Hui, a better-off peasant in the Nanshan Village of Jinxian County, sponsored a city-wide "Glory Cup" peasant football tournament last year. His family also formed a team to compete in the tournament.

Young booters in Dalian are also to be reckoned with. On a visit to Qingdao and Beijing in 1955, under-15 young players pushed all their rivals aside. Most of that squad later became major players in national team or other top teams. At China's first under-15 football tournament in 1959, the Dalian team won the tournament by 10 goals to nil. In 1964 the team from the Dalian 12th Middle School football team, representing China's middle school students, won an international high school students' football tournament held in Europe for the first time. Two years ago, the under-15 Dalian team snatched two cups in the nationwide "Hopefuls Cup" and "Sapling Cup."

In recent years, women's football has developed rapidly in Dalian and has produced national team players like Zhong Honglian.

Early in 1964 Dalian was officially listed as one of the 10 key soccer cities in China by the state. In 1979 the State Physical Culture and Sports Commission honoured Dalian again as one of the 16 major soccer cities in China. There are 210,000 professional and amateur soccer players in Dalian now, justifying its title as "Soccer" City. ■



Chinese Encyclopaedia Britannica Completed

A 10-volume *Concise Encyclopaedia Britannica* (in Chinese) was published recently by the Encyclopaedia of China Publishing House in co-operation with the Encyclopaedia Britannica Inc. of the United States.

The first edition of *Encyclopaedia Britannica* appeared in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1768. Later editions were also released in Britain until the early 20th century, when the copyright was transferred to the United States. There have been 15 editions so far. Editions in French, Japanese, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and Arabic have also been produced in co-operation with publishing houses of other countries.

In August 1980 an agreement was signed between China and the American publishers on the production of a Chinese version of the Encyclopaedia. The American side supplied the manuscripts and other materials and the Chinese did the editing, translation and printing work. To ensure that the encyclopaedia is authoritative and objective, a joint review board was set up to examine the manuscripts and to solve any problems that arose in editing and translating. Chinese scholars were also responsible for editing and updating articles on China. The work was translated, slightly abridged, directly from the English edition in order to preserve the style of the original.

Volumes 1-9 comprise the text, and Volume 10 is a bilingual index. An appendix includes 23 tables of statistics on each country's gross national product, industry, communications and transport, trade, finance, education, tourism, language, family and marriage. The encyclopaedia consists of 71,000 entries of 29 million words with 5,000 pictures.

The joint publication of the encyclopaedia was supported by the Party leadership. In 1979 and 1980 Deng Xiaoping received Mr. Frank Gibney, vice-chairman of the board of editors of the Encyclopaedia Britannica Inc., and said on one occasion, "This is a good thing... This work is related to our four modernizations." On September 10, 1985, when the first three volumes were published, Deng Xiaoping again said, "This book is a very useful book. It gives knowledge to the readers. We are now working for the four modernizations but we lack knowledge. We should acquire knowledge from all side." On March 1, 1984, when Premier Zhao Ziyang met Mr. Gibney, he said, "I fully appreciate the efforts of the Encyclopaedia of China Publishing House and the Encyclopaedia Britannica Inc. in publishing the Chinese edition of the encyclopaedia." When Mrs. Thatcher visited China in December 1984, Party General Secretary Hu Yaobang presented her with a signed copy of the trial issue of the first volume.

Thanks to the friendly co-operation between the Chinese and American sides and the hard work of over 500 Chinese specialists, scholars, translators, editors, and printers, the first three volumes were published in September 1985 and distributed throughout China. The encyclopaedia is selling well and the first three volumes are being reprinted for the second time. The magnum opus is now on display at the Beijing International Book Fair that began on September 5. A ceremony to mark the distribution of all its 10 volumes will take place at the Shanghai national book exhibition on September 13. The American side will hold a similar

ceremony and a press conference on September 15 and October 6 in Singapore and Washington respectively. The encyclopaedia will be on sale abroad. ■

by Xu Weizeng

'China by the Year 2000' Completed

China has completed a mammoth research project to forecast what China will be like by the end of this century, according to the Chinese national association of science and technology.

Over the past three years, 10,000 scientists have given their forecasts in a set of 72 books for a series called "*China by the Year 2000*." More than 60 books have already come off the press, and the rest are now being printed.

The series covers all fields of work for China's modernization including systems engineering, geology, medical sciences, communications, aviation, industry and agriculture.

While analyzing how far China is behind developed countries in each specific field, the authors propose policies and other measures to help the country catch up. ■



Flexibility on Marxism

With great interest I studied the series "Modernization—the Chinese Way," which you published recently in a pamphlet.

The article about the development of agriculture by Lu Baifu describes the very great changes which have taken place in Chinese agriculture. With great clarity the article gives us the key aspects of the reforms which aim to speed the development and modernization of the countryside.

Of all the policies and measures, the responsibility system in the countryside attracted my interest. It, and the others, are correcting the mistakes made before, namely the premature abolition of the small co-operative and individual household as economic units, believing that public ownership was the only suitable form of ownership for a socialist state.

The corrective policies being implemented now are an essential part of the readjustment of the balance between various forms of production. They show that you have drawn lessons from historical experience and taken your own way. You demonstrate that Marxism is not a dogma, but a guide to action.

M. Bernal R.
Sogamoso, Colombia

More About Provinces

I am very happy with the changes in the cover of *Beijing Review*, and also with the improvement in your photos and layout.

May I suggest that your magazine open a new column to introduce the various provinces of China. I think it will benefit each province's autonomy. With the increasing number of Sino-foreign co-operative projects, such as those between some federal states of West Germany and the various provinces of China, interest in

many countries about the various areas of China is growing.

In addition, I wish you could review fewer books published in Chinese and more books published in English and German in the column "Books."

I am interested in the column "Events/Trends" and your special features, because I find them inspiring. I hope *Beijing Review* will make further advances. It is an important source of understanding of China's position and viewpoint. It also makes a contribution to the contacts between different people.

Olaf Siemes
Hamburg, West Germany

Leaders Lectured on Law

I was moved by your article "Leaders Lectured on Law" in issue No. 29. I know that China is paying attention to the construction of the country's legal system and to spreading legal knowledge among the people. But I still can't help marvelling at the serious attitude of your leaders headed by General Secretary Hu Yaobang. I also offer my respect to their extraordinary enthusiasm in the modernization drive.

China has a vast territory and a very large population. Without wise leaders, in my opinion, it would be impossible for the Chinese people to lead the stable lives they enjoy today.

Chi Zu Hjizi
Kagayama, Japan

'Hundred School' Policy Acclaimed

I read your article "Hundred School Policy: An Impetus to Science Development" in issue No. 21. As I see it, China is facing the question of how to continue the socialist transformation after the work was basically completed

in 1956. The "hundred school" policy should be continued as its implementation in the scientific, cultural and technological fields is a good way of allowing the one billion Chinese people to participate in the reforms as is their desire.

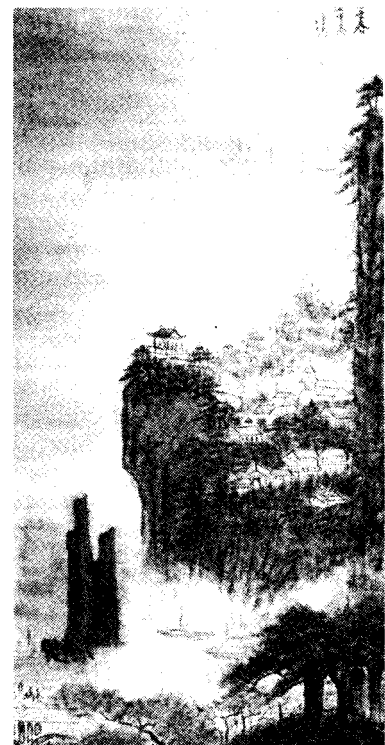
Hiditsugu Asano
Shimane, Japan

West Europeans Wish Security

I was interested to read your article "Western Europe's Role in US-Soviet Rivalry" in issue No. 31. Its analysis was very profound.

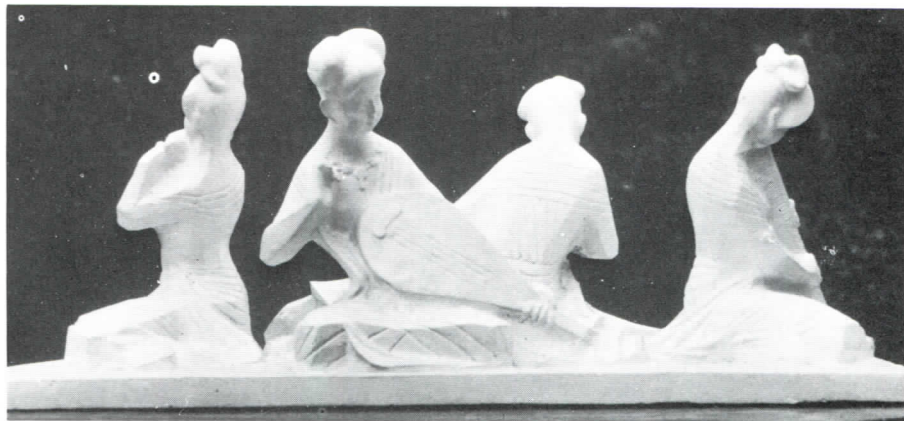
The common concern of the West Europeans is security, as we suffered badly in World War II. We hope to end the arms race for it will be the ruination of Europe.

Francois Sannier
Le Theil Sur Huisne, France



Sculptures by Wang Tianzhu

Wang Tianzhu, born in 1939 in Henan Province, now works at the Shaanxi Sculpture Studio. He mostly produces city sculptures.



Ancient Musical Ensemble.



Zhuang Zhou (c.369-286 BC) a philosopher of the Warring States Period.



Hou Ji, the first man to plant millet and wheat, according to an ancient Chinese legend.

ART PAGE

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