

北京周报

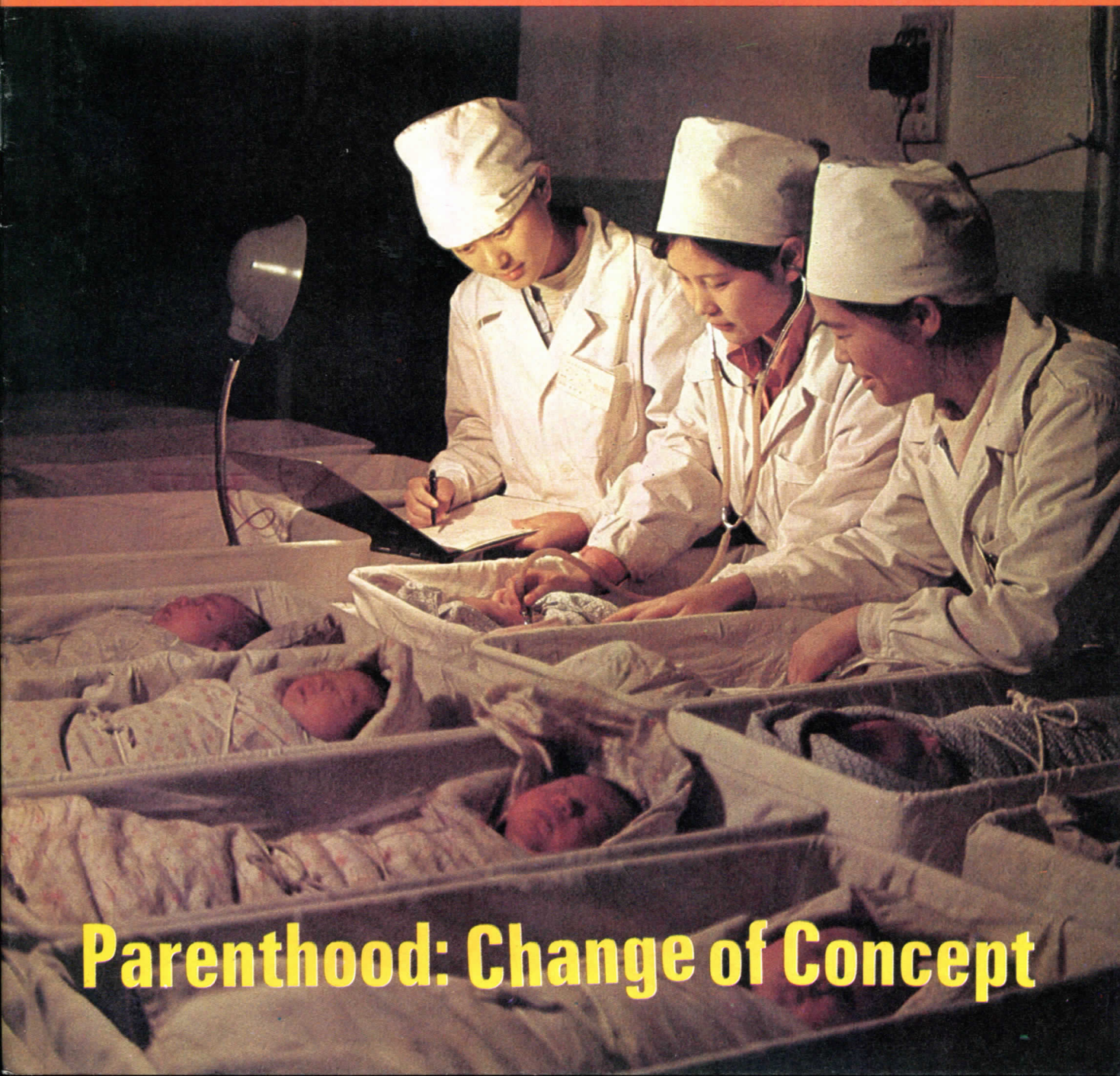
A CHINESE WEEKLY OF NEWS AND VIEWS

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Theories Behind the Reforms — A Discussion



Parenthood: Change of Concept

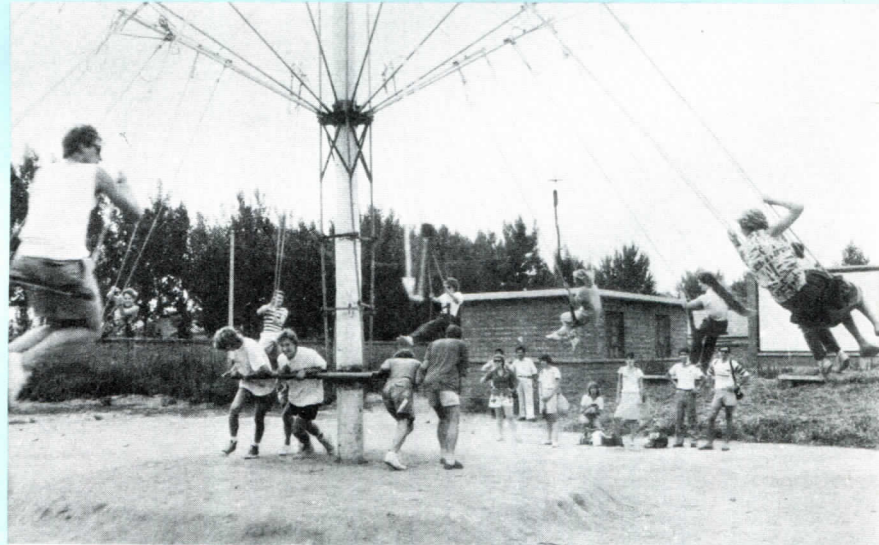
Farmers Run "Folk Custom" Tours

Farmers in Shijiazhuang Village, Anqiu County, Shandong Province, have arranged tours for at least 3,000 tourists from 80 countries to observe local folk customs. Tourists live, eat and work together with the farmers. In this way, they enjoy themselves while witnessing the new situation in China's countryside.

Tourists being shown around on a horse-drawn cart.



Young American woman tries out an ancient bridal sedan chair.



Visitors enjoy a simple merry-go-round.

SPOTLIGHT



Playing with farmers' children.



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COVER: Nurses at Beijing Fuxing
Hospital tending the newborn infants.
Shen Chen

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

China Probes Theory of Reforms

■ The China Historical Materialism Study Society recently discussed the theories behind the current reforms, including the underlying theory, the nature of the planned commodity economy, and the relationship between the development of the planned commodity economy and the advancement of socialist ideology and culture (p. 14).

Commodity Economy & Concept of Morality

■ The development of a commodity economy exerts both positive and negative influences on people's ideology and morality. Developing the positive factors and overcoming the negative is an important task in China's effort to build an advanced culture and ideology (p. 4).

Different Roles for Family Planning

■ Population control has meant a lower birthrate and higher standards of living in Jinxian County. Not only young families but grandparents too are feeling the effects through better care provisions. Women have more opportunities to participate in life outside the home (p.19).

In Inner Mongolia it has meant an increase in population and better education and health for its 44 minority ethnic groups (p. 15).

Shandong Helps Poor Areas Help Themselves

■ The majority of China's 800 million rural people have considerably improved their lifestyles since rural reforms began in 1979. In Shandong, 14 percent of the province's poor have been lifted out of poverty by changing aid handouts for support in developing their economy (p. 21).

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Profit & Morality

by Geng Yuxin

China is working hard to develop a socialist commodity economy, in a bid to break the shackles of small-scale production and the autarkic natural economy which held back the development of production. Begun eight years ago, this effort, along with the opening to the outside world and the reforms in the political and economic structures, has brought remarkable economic benefits to the country. At the same time it exerts an increasing influence on people's ideology and morality.

The positive side of this influence appears dominant as domestic markets open up, international exchanges increase and competition proliferates. Industrial and commercial enterprises, granted new decision-making powers, are breaking man-made barriers and establishing direct economic ties with their counterparts. In this way, people can broaden their horizons and come to new conclusions through analysis and comparisons. This enhances their sense of urgency in changing the state of China's economy and technology, and increases their knowledge and abilities. People are being imbued with the spirit of pioneering and enterprise. A new concept of time and efficiency is sweeping across this ancient yet young country like a fresh gust of wind.

The development of a socialist commodity economy has called for the redistribution of power, interests and responsibility. Enterprises with their newly won relative independence can benefit the country once they have improved their performance, and at the same time retain more of their own profits. A person can get more pay for more work. This has rationalized the ties between the state, the collective and individuals through greater interde-

pendence of interests. Such a change is helpful to the establishment of a new type of socialist relationship characterized by unity and democracy, equality and fraternity, and mutual aid among

The growth of a commodity economy demands close attention, as profit-oriented behaviour may encourage egoism, neglect of the public interest and even corruption, theft and racketeering.

all people. In the past, however, differences in people's abilities and contributions were overlooked and a distribution principle of absolute egalitarianism was enforced. Now this unrealistic principle has been discarded and the diligent and capable are encouraged to become prosperous first and at the same time to help the needy to catch up as quickly as possible. Never forgetting the magnificent goal of common prosperity has now become a new code of social conduct.

However, negative influences which have come in the wake of the development of a commodity economy should not be ignored. The change from allocation in kind (in the cities) and distribution in kind (in the countryside) to exchange in cash will increase the importance of money. Emphasis on the principle of exchange of commodities at equal value may lead to bargaining in human relationships where the exchange of commodities is not involved. The influence of the decadent bourgeois idea of putting profit-



making first may encourage egoism, neglect of public interests and even corruption, theft and racketeering. These phenomena have emerged and developed somewhat in the last few years. They contradict the purpose of developing a socialist commodity economy and are incompatible with the common ideal and the moral standards of the country.

Morality reflects and serves the economic base. The socialist economy is based on public ownership. Although profits are taken into account while developing the commodity economy, its basic aim remains one of meeting the people's growing material and cultural needs. The principle of exchange of equal value, so important in the commodity economy, is not applicable to non-commodity fields, such as politics, ideology and culture. Although attention should be given to individual interests, this should not be allowed to encroach on the interests of the state and the people. Therefore, love of the motherland, the people, labour, science and socialism has become the basic standard of social conduct. Only this sort of morality can help consolidate and develop the socialist economic base.

Imbuing the people with socialist ethics, developing the positive factors of the commodity economy while overcoming its negative factors—this is an important task in the nation's effort to build an advanced culture and ideology.

Non-Communist Parties Getting Bigger

The steady efforts of the Revolutionary Committee of the Kuomintang (RCK) to increase its membership and extend its influence seem to be getting somewhere. Over the past seven years, it has doubled in size to 18,000 throughout the country, with the Beijing branch growing to more than 1,170. "We are experiencing a second golden age, following our heyday in the years 1949-57 nearly three decades ago," said Zhang Zhaojun, head of the information section of the Beijing Committee of the RCK.

The organization, which generally used to limit its membership to former Kuomintang members and those who had relatives in Taiwan, has now begun to open its door to younger people, mainly the children and grand children of the former members in the cultural, education, health and economic fields.

Last month, in a secluded courtyard east of Beijing, where the RCK headquarters are located, the Beijing committee accorded a warm welcome to Wang Xijue, Huang Zhicheng and Li Dawei, former Taiwan pilots who flew to the mainland in recent years. "I understand from reading *Unity*, an RCK-run newspaper, that the Revolutionary Committee of the Kuomintang is a democratic party formed in 1948 from two organizations—the Three People's Principles Comrades' Federation and the Kuomintang Association for Promoting Democracy—to carry on the patriotic spirit of Sun Yat-sen. I have joined the party in the hope of being able to do my bit to promote the reunification of the motherland," said Wang Xijue, who diverted a Boeing 747 cargo plane of Taiwan's China Airlines to the mainland last May.

The Revolutionary Committee of the Kuomintang is one of eight

non-communist parties in China. It ceased to function for 13 years during and after the "cultural revolution," and only began recruiting new members again in 1979. Since then more than 750 have joined the Beijing committee, mostly people with an average age around 50.

The party concentrates on the promotion of the country's reunification, disseminating and implementing the Chinese Communist Party's (CPC) policies on the return of Taiwan to the motherland and on strengthening contacts with people in Taiwan or former KMT leaders and their relatives residing abroad. "At present our focus is to push forward the realization of the 'one country, two systems' formula advocated by the Chinese Communist Party and government," Zhang said. "Operated according to the principles of 'long-term coexistence and mutual supervision, being straight forward with each other and sharing the weal and woe with the Communist Party, the RCK is becoming

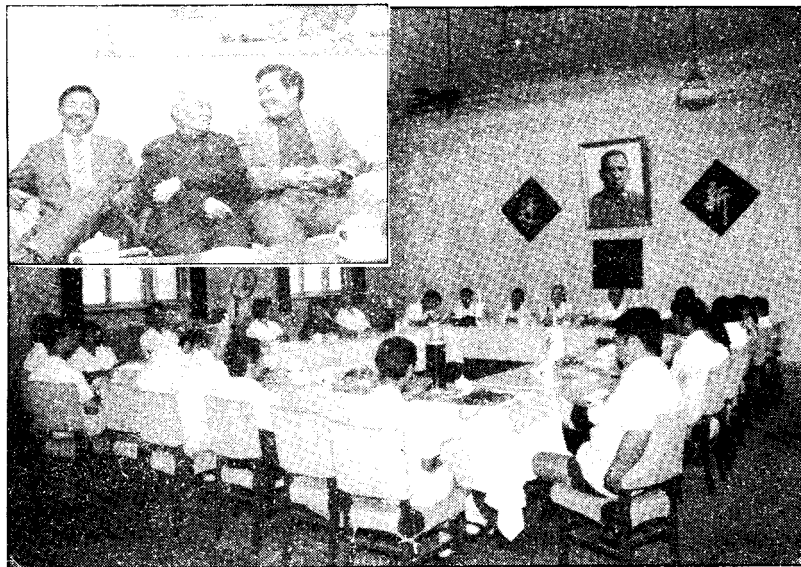
more and more active and beginning to work more independently for its goals," added Zhang.

In addition to the specific role it plays in the struggle for unification which the Communist Party itself cannot play, the RCK often organizes its members in the service of society by sponsoring various spare-time schools, offering medical consultations and holding painting exhibitions. It also has frequent get-togethers of its own to watch films, go on outings or celebrate festivals.

During a discussion, RCK member Ma Yuwen, daughter of Ma Zhanshan, who was commander of the Northeast Anti-Japanese Allied Army, said that since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee in 1978, the Communist Party had restored its working style of 'seeking truth from facts,' and had re-evaluated the nature of KMT-CPC co-operation and reaffirmed the positive role played by the Kuomintang in the Anti-Japanese War. This was a great comfort to

A warm welcome. Upper left, Hou Jingru (centre), vice-chairman of the RCK Central Committee, talks to Wang Xijue (left) and Li Dawei

HE JIANG



KMT officials and soldiers who participated in the war, and to their relatives. "Now we realize the determination and sincerity of the CPC in trying to achieve a third round of co-operation. The Taiwan authorities should yield its ground, and make efforts to get fellow countrymen on both sides of the Taiwan Straits to unite for a prosperous and powerful China," she said.

The second co-operation between the CPC and Kuomintang ended a 10-year split between the two parties, and the people of the whole nation stood together against the Japanese invaders. Now in order to reunify the country the two parties must again co-operate, said Liu Chunfang, a former KMT official under the famous KMT general Fu Zuoyi. "As an RCK member I'll make every effort to secure the early reunification of the motherland."

In China, apart from the ruling Communist Party, there are eight democratic parties known as the Revolutionary Committee of the Kuomintang, the China Democratic League, the China Democratic National Construction Association, the China Association for Promoting Democracy, the Chinese Peasants' and Workers' Democratic Party, the China Zhi Gong Dang, the Jiusan (September 3) Society and the Taiwan Democratic Self-Government League. All these parties were leftist organizations active in the liberation movement before 1949 and, following the founding of the People's Republic, agreed to work within a constitutional framework that acknowledges the leadership of the CPC.

In recent years, as their membership has declined with the death of pre-liberation members, the parties have attached importance to recruiting new members and have grown quickly as a result. Many of the new members are well-known artists and scientists. Among the new participants of the China Democratic League, the largest of the

eight, are painter Fan Zeng, giant panda expert Pan Wenshi, singer Li Guyi and violinist Sheng Zhongguo.

The CPC and the democratic parties supervise and consult each other on important state matters. In September this year alone, the Beijing municipal authorities solicited advice from officials of the eight parties on six occasions, on issues ranging from the Party's own "homecleaning" drive to price policies. "It is part of what we do to maintain a united front," a CPC official who works with the parties said recently. ■

by Wang Xianghong

Capital Goods Mart: Child of the Reform

Chinese enterprises are now asked to become independent commodity producers, and are encouraged to compete against one another in the market. But the country's decades-old system of capital goods supply stands in their way.

However, there is now hope with the experimental opening of a market for the circulation of capital goods in Shijiazhuang, the capital of the north China province of Hebei.

The Shijiazhuang experiment aims to bring market forces into play in the circulation of capital goods. Under the existing system, enterprises have to accept whatever the state allocates them. Moreover, they are not allowed to sell goods the state supplies them even if the goods cannot meet their specific needs for production. As a result, some enterprises accumulate large stockpiles of unused goods, tying up large amounts of working capital, while others cannot get what they urgently need. And enterprises which are allocated more goods by the state will derive greater benefit because state prices are much lower than those of supplies obtained through other channels.

The authorities in Shijiazhuang have therefore decided to introduce a capital goods market so that all enterprises can compete on an equal footing and help meet each other's needs. They did this in three stages: First, they relaxed control over goods outside the state plan and allowed them to circulate freely. Second, they permitted enterprises to buy steel, timber, pig iron and soda ash—four major capital items for production—on the local market or from elsewhere in the country if they could not obtain them from the state goods supply depart-

Steel tubes market in Shijiazhuang.

ZHANG LIANSHENG



ments. Local authorities provide them with subsidies to cover the price differences. Third, they extended this system to cover 10 capital items, including copper, aluminium, lead and zinc.

The experiment is producing tangible results. First, enterprises have more autonomy in deciding what they need and selling what they do not need, thus enabling them to improve their economic performance. For instance, a shoe tree factory in the city used to receive 200 cubic metres of timber from the city goods supply bureau each year. But the timber was not up to standard. Even so it had to buy the timber because it was not permitted to get anything better from other sources. Now the factory is given a subsidy to buy from a northeast China forest area directly. This saves the factory 80,000 yuan each year.

Second, enterprises are forced to improve management and to reduce costs. In the past, many shortcomings in management were shielded by cheap materials allocated by the state, because enterprises did not need to worry about price rises.

Third, it has impelled goods supply departments to overcome bureaucracy and brought them back to life. Zhang Tiexun, director of the city goods supply bureau, said, "Now my post has become very challenging. In the past, people came to beg my help. Now, I have to ask favours of them." The bureau has established a banking and legal advisory service for sellers and buyers. It has also set up a "steel depository" in which enterprises can place steel goods they cannot make immediate use of, like depositing money in the bank. The "depository" then tries to sell the goods to other units.

While giving up control of capital goods distribution, the city goods supply bureau has not forfeited its responsibility to maintain the supply of capital goods. Last year, it collected more than 20 million yuan from the

city's enterprises and with the money established supply arrangements with more than 400 capital goods producers in 106 cities in the form of joint operations, joint marketing and compensatory trade. It now has over 30 reliable suppliers of steel, timber, coal and cement, and the prices of these products have been stabilized or even brought down as a result. For example, the price of one ton of coiled steel was 1,800-2,000 yuan last year. Now it has been reduced* to around 1,500 yuan.

Prior to 1984, the state allocated only 40,000 tons of steel to Shijiazhuang a year, falling far short of its actual need for 100,000 tons. Now the brisk business on the market has remedied this situation. In 1985 the market handled more than 260,000 tons of steel, most of it taken out of factory warehouses.

Not everybody is happy about the opening of a capital goods market. Some people argue that the supply to key projects is at risk. But the people in Shijiazhuang feel otherwise. They think a way can be found to solve this particular problem. In their opinion, the opening of the capital goods market will benefit both the state and enterprises, contributing to the overall economic reform. ■

Price Gap Widens in Rural Areas

Agriculture is likely to be threatened by a growing scissors movement between the prices of agricultural and industrial products—so warns a special team investigating the price gap in the exchange of industrial goods for farm produce in rural areas. The investigators, who have made a thorough study of the shifting situation throughout China, also appealed for serious attention to be given to this problem.

China & the World

■ **China Turns Down Soviet Suggestion on Asian Security Conference.** If the Soviet Union is genuinely concerned about peace and stability in Asia, it should stop deploying missiles and nuclear weapons, and drastically reduce those already deployed, so as to ease the tension in this region, said a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman at a weekly news briefing on November 19. He said the Soviet Union should take practical steps to eliminate the flashpoints in Afghanistan and Kampuchea.

■ **China Hopes to Develop Economic Ties With Saudi Arabia.** Meeting a group of Saudi businessmen led by Abdulaziz al-Guraishi, former governor of the Saudi Monetary Agency, on November 16, Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang said there was great potential for China and Saudi Arabia to expand their trade and economic relations on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, and the two countries should work together to explore new fields and forms of economic co-operation. Zhao hoped more Saudi people would visit China so that they could better understand the country and promote friendship as well as economic relations between China and Saudi Arabia.



ZHANG SHUYUAN

New Flyover Helps Ease Beijing Traffic Jam

The flyover recently built at Dabeiyao, Jianguomenwai Street in Beijing. Eighteen metres wide and 330 metres long, it has a clearance of 4.5 metres.

In 1979, to narrow existing differentials, the government decided to make a general increase averaging 24.3 percent in the prices of eight principal crops. At the same time, manufactured goods continued to be sold at unchanged prices on the rural market. As a result, villagers became better-off economically and were encouraged to increase farm output.

However, in recent years the rate at which the price scissors narrowed has declined. For example, in the central China province of Hubei, the scissors differential narrowed by 18.3 percent in 1979, but in 1984, the rate went down to 1.3 percent, because the too-rapid increase in prices of industrial manufactures, especially farm tools and machinery, has offset the positive effect

of the policy to relax control over the prices of some agricultural products. The purchasing prices for grain and cash crops were raised by 1.8 and 1.5 percent respectively last year. Meanwhile, the retail prices of manufactured goods rose by 3.2 percent, and those for farm implements by 8.4 percent. Price increases over the last few years have greatly exceeded total increases over the previous 30 years or more.

The forced lowering of prices and gradings in local purchases of farm produce, and the random raising of retail prices of manufactured goods have given farmers cause to complain that they are not getting the income they should, while having to pay out what they should not have to. According to the State Pricing Bureau, farmers actually received 92.4 percent of the benefit generated by price increases made in 1979, after allowing for increased costs of production, taxation, etc.. But this high proportion had declined to 52.43 percent by last year. Many farmers now have to take out loans to buy seeds, chemical fertilizers and pesticides. All this has seriously affected farmers' interests, and their enthusiasm for farming.

"Its not right to abandon grain, but there is no need to grow more, as long as we have enough for ourselves." This is the general thought of most farmers. Since they can easily make much more money by growing anything other than grain, they are reluctant to grow grain for the state on so-called "responsibility fields." This attitude is shared by most farmers in western Sichuan and in the Pearl River and Yangtze River deltas—places that the investigators covered. Grain production is thus the principal victim of the widening price gap.

The little profit to be had from grain production has driven more and more farmers to turn to sideline businesses and rural industrial undertakings, or to growing other cash crops. In the

province of Sichuan alone, 3,400 of the 5,000 rural families surveyed in 55 counties took it for granted that they would grow only enough grain for themselves. The number of households with large "responsibility fields" specializing in commodity grain production has sharply decreased. This is the situation in Sichuan, Guangdong, Hubei, Fujian, Jiangsu and other provinces.

To solve the problem, the investigators suggest restoring some traditional policies favouring agriculture and the remote frontier areas, in particular stabilizing the interest rates on farm loans and lowering the prices of rural manufactures and the materials for agricultural production, while raising the prices paid for grain and other crops, and imposing a special tax on highly profitable farm products. In fact, local authorities in some parts of China have already begun to take part of the profits of sideline businesses and rural industries to subsidize households specializing in grain production. ■

Senior Citizens Gain New Life

Seven years after her retirement, 67-year-old Li Zhaohui has unexpectedly found her long-lost youth.

Li, who retired in 1979, used to take care of her grandson at home. Though she loved the baby and wanted to help its parents, she found herself bogged down with endless housework. She felt gloomy at the thought of oncoming senility.

When the baby was old enough to enter a kindergarten in 1982, she joined the Centre for the Aged in Eastern Beijing. Now she is an active member of a calligraphy class, attends lectures on nutrition and health, and is in the choir at the centre.

"Here I've lots to learn and enjoy," the old woman said.

"Besides, we old ones have our own common language."

While being interviewed, the white-haired woman was singing triumphantly with her "class-mates." They were preparing for a singing contest between centres for the aged in the city.

"Learning, singing and laughing with people like myself, I feel as lively as a young woman. I'm afraid to look at myself in the mirror back at home," she said.

The centre, set up in 1981, provides many services for nearly 1,000 retired people in the district. Their ages range from 55 to 84.

Lectures on history, calligraphy, Chinese painting and flower growing are given to quench the old folks' thirst for knowledge. Courses in *Wushu* (martial arts) and *Qigong* (deep-breathing) exercises are given to keep them fit. Chess, singing and croquet entertain them. And a barber shop, a bathroom, laundry, and tailor's and repair shops are all cheap and convenient.

eastern Beijing old people's centre was allocated 82,000 yuan by the state this year. But it is not spoon-fed. It relies as much as possible on retired people themselves. Three of its five managers are pensioners, while other capable ones take their roles as teachers, coaches, tailors, bike-fixers and the like.

Gao Feng, 68, suffered a heart attack at work. *Qigong* exercises restored his health. At present he is coaching two dozen fellow believers in the exercises at the centre. "You feel as fit as a bull when you find yourself something interesting to do after retirement," Gao said.

In fact, the *Qigong* idea is applied generally to the old folks' physical and mental health. As the 34-year-old director of the chorus, Huang Shuhua, puts it, "we ask them to imagine they are sniffing the sweet smell of flowers before singing, and to laugh as freely as they can. Then we put musical notes into the laughter." ■

by Wang Xin

News in Brief

China is now drafting new trade union legislation to define the role of trade unions in the country's affairs, according to a spokesman of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions. He said, "Trade unions are facing many new problems and tasks totally different from those in the past, and the new law will stress the rights and duties of over 80 million trade union members in the continuing reform of China's political and economic structure." ■ ■ ■

China is to build 28 new power plants near coastal cities in the next 10 years to ease the acute shortage of electricity in the more developed coastal areas. These stations, with a total designed capacity of 20 million kw, are expected to generate 120 billion kwh of electricity a year. ■ ■ ■

One quarter of China's air-raid tunnels, most of which were dug after 1969, when a sudden attack from the Soviet Union was anticipated, have been converted into shops, hotels, hospitals and factory workshops, providing employment for more than 60,000 people and generating more than 100 million yuan in profits a year.

WESTERN EUROPE

US Reminded of Its Allies' Security

Western Europe is afraid of being left without the protection of US nuclear arms. Reagan placates his allies.

West Europeans may have openly expressed their appreciation of the US and Soviet efforts to disarm at the Reykjavik summit, but they could not hide their concern that an agreement on substantial cuts in or the complete elimination of the superpowers' nuclear weapons in Europe could expose Western Europe to the Soviet superiority in conventional forces.

The summit did alert Western Europe to the fact that the arms control accord agreed in principle between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and US President Ronald Reagan could possibly lead to a military imbalance between the West and the East, endangering the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)'s strategic nuclear deterrent and putting Western Europe's security at risk.

The alarm prompted West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to visit Washington within a month of the Iceland summit. They brought President Reagan his European allies' concern that they would be left vulnerable to the East European superiority in conventional arms if the United States scrapped its nuclear weapons in Europe in a disarmament deal with the Soviet Union. Thatcher put the point directly, saying that slashing or eliminating strategic nuclear arms may render Western Europe vulnerable to attack by conventional forces and chemical weapons in a way that the United States is not.

Since the Reykjavik meeting, West Europeans have feared their security is being ignored by

Washington. It has not escaped their notice that Reagan could well have signed an agreement with Gorbachev to remove medium-range missiles from Europe if the Soviet leader had not linked such an accord with the US "Star Wars" missiles defence system. The message which Kohl and Thatcher have conveyed to Reagan is that any negotiations on disarmament must not put Western Europe at risk. Kohl stressed that any arms reductions must increase Europe's security, rather than decrease it. The British prime minister joined him in saying that cutbacks in nuclear forces must be linked with reductions in Soviet conventional forces. Kohl suggested the superpowers hold parallel talks on conventional forces while negotiating reductions in nuclear forces.

Both Kohl and Thatcher expressed their desire to maintain nuclear weapons in Europe. "The fact is that nuclear weapons have prevented not only nuclear war but conventional war in Europe for 40 years," said Thatcher. "That is why we depend on and will continue to depend on nuclear weapons for our defence."

Washington is eager to pacify its

European allies. It has promised them that the United States will focus on Soviet short-range missiles and conventional weapons after concluding any agreements on cuts in medium-range missiles in Europe. Reagan placated Kohl by saying that any agreement would not be the result of weakness and timidity on the part of Western nations. Kohl at the same time confirmed West Germany's attitude to SDI—the federal government would not take part itself, but would allow private companies to do so. British Prime Minister Thatcher promised Reagan she would press ahead with full support for the US programme. Reagan in turn reaffirmed his support for the arrangements made to modernize Britain's independent nuclear deterrent.

While expressing their approval of Reagan's stance, NATO defence ministers voiced their anxiety over the near-deal in Reykjavik to withdraw all medium-range nuclear warheads from Europe. Some European military chiefs warned that a too rapid phase-out of the missiles would give the Soviet Union the upper hand, because of Moscow's numerical superiority in short-range missiles and conventional forces. But some ministers have said that far from being a failure, the Iceland summit provided a working basis for the superpowers to continue talking, and they hope that an overall agreement can be signed, covering all types of weapons.

by Xin Sheng

SOUTH KOREA

Seoul Accused of Spreading Rumour

Seoul has been strongly criticized at home and abroad over the false report it circulated that North Korean leader Kim Il Sung had been killed.

South Korean Minister of Defence Lee Ki Baek announced in Seoul on November 17 that

North Korean leader Kim Il Sung had been "assassinated." The "news" spread like wildfire to

every corner of the world, giving rise to innumerable agitated reports on the world's radios, television screens and in the press.

However, the appearance of Kim on TV on November 18 greeting the visiting Mongolian leader Zhambyn Batmonkh at Pyongyang airport soon gave the lie to the South Korean report. The New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP), the main opposition party in South Korea, demanded the resignation of the South Korean cabinet.

Speaking in South Korea's National Assembly on November 18, a member of the NKDP said that Defence Minister Lee Ki Baek's report "not only caused unrest among the people, but also hurt the government's credibility at home and abroad." He also pointed out that although the

report was released by the defence minister, it was made public after an emergency cabinet meeting. "The cabinet, therefore, must assume responsibility and resign." Other opposition parties also expressed their strong dissatisfaction and demanded the collective resignation of the cabinet.

People everywhere began to wonder what was behind the report. Some analysts have noted that the rumour incident is probably not unconnected with the recent political tension in South Korea. One Japanese official, according to the Tokyo-based Kyodo News Service, remarked that he suspects the South Korean statement was designed to divert people's attention from the region's own political unrest. ■

by She Duanzhi

OAS

New Efforts Towards Peace

The 16th general assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) has brought fresh hopes of peace to Latin America by agreeing to support the Contadora Group in its peace mission.

The 16th general assembly of the Organization of American States, held November 10-15, and attended by 31 member nations and observers from 15 foreign countries and international organizations, passed a resolution of support for the Contadora Group in its efforts to negotiate peace in Central America. The assembly was called to discuss regional issues including the situation in Central America, the region's foreign debt crisis, the problem of the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands, and the struggle against drug trafficking.

Top on the agenda was the crisis in Central America, which has been intensified by the US Congress's passing of a bill to give Nicaraguan contras military aid valued at US\$100 million. Further escalating the arms race in Central America, the USA has also

decided to give Honduras the right to purchase advanced jet fighters from the US. In addition to this, Nicaragua has brought a suit in the International Court of Justice at the Hague, commonly known as the World Court, charging Honduras and Costa Rica with aiding the anti-Sandinista rebels to overthrow the government in Managua.

Speaking at the assembly, Brazilian Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre said, "The Central American crisis can be solved only through a process of negotiation, for which the Contadora Group is the most appropriate forum." Exerting all its strength to resume its peace efforts, which have been at a standstill since June, the Contadora Group, comprising Mexico, Colombia, Panama and Venezuela, made frequent con-

tacts during the OAS meeting with the Lima Support Group to try to restore confidence in the possibility of peace in Central America.

Though its efforts were blocked by the refusal of Costa Rica, Honduras and El Salvador to return to the negotiating table unless Nicaragua withdrew its World Court suit, the 31 OAS member states eventually got together to pass the compromise resolution supporting the Contadora Group. The joint communique presented to the 16th assembly by the Contadora Group and the Lima Group said that hostility, interference and the use of force by foreign nations remained the principal problem in Latin America, but that their solution had to come from the region itself in order to avoid the penetration of the East-West conflict into the area. The communique added that the countries of the OAS, keeping their promise to try to find a negotiated road to peace and justice, have decided to commence a round of consultations with Central American governments and the international community. The document ended by recommending Central American governments to state again their desire for peace and to transform their words into deeds. But Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal acknowledged that while Latin American nations disagree with US policy on Nicaragua, in the field of economic co-operation there is a "close relationship" with the United States.

Sponsored by Argentina and Uruguay, another resolution was passed that expressed "profound concern over the tensions and the potential conflicts" created by Britain's October 29 declaration of a 150-mile "exclusive fishing zone" around the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands. The OAS nations made three other major points in the resolution: They "support international forces favouring negotiation in the

dispute over sovereignty," ask both sides to "exhaust all possible opportunities of negotiations" and "support the decision of the Argentine Government to resolve the dispute through diplomatic negotiations." The United States

said at the assembly that, by being a good friend to both countries, it hoped Argentina and Britain would find a solution to the problem acceptable to both sides. ■

by Zhu Manting

SOUTH ASIA

Clearing Up Misunderstandings

The heads of state and government of the nations of South Asia have promised to continue to promote peace, stability and progress in their region.

The two-day second summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) ended on November 17 in the Indian city of Bangalore. Two kings, three presidents and two prime ministers from Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India met to discuss how to minimize their differences and promote SAARC.

They decided to establish a permanent SAARC secretariat to commence work next January in Kathmandu, Nepal, to set up two pioneer centres for co-operation, and to meet annually for consultations and discussion. The next meeting of SAARC will be in Kathmandu in 1987.

They also agreed to launch more joint programmes on child health and the women's movement, and to wage common fights against drug trafficking and abuse, and against terrorism.

Other agreed co-operative projects include a tourism-boosting currency interchange agreement, a SAARC documentation centre for

academic exchanges, a youth volunteer plan for the development of agriculture and forestry, and a South Asian broadcasting programme.

SAARC may seem to have progressed very slowly, considering that nearly one year's labour went into preparing the above agreements. But bearing in mind the number of thorny disputes in the region, one must view this much progress as heartening.

All South Asian nations are plagued by poverty, disease, illiteracy and above all mutual suspicions and sometimes hatreds rooted in their colonial past. It was for this reason that South Asia was the last region in the world to devise a regional forum.

Outstanding bilateral disputes include India's accusation of Pakistan's alleged support for Sikh militants in its troubled Punjab State, the reported Pakistani nuclear development programme and Sri Lanka's suspicion of Indian support for its minority Tamil separatists.

Other issues include India's and Bangladesh's dispute over the sharing of common Ganges river resources, and another one over the ownership of a newly emerged island in the Bay of Bengal.

Despite all this, the second regional summit convened as scheduled. During it, more than a dozen bilateral exchanges of views were held informally in a relaxed mood, and yielded positive results. Two decisions were made in the course of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's discussions with Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Khan Junejo. One concerns a meeting at secretary level to be held in December in Lahore, Pakistan, on measures to prevent illegal border crossings and trafficking in drugs.

The other decision is for Indian Foreign Secretary A.P. Venkateswaran to visit Islamabad before the end of the year to continue talks on normalizing relations. Rajiv Gandhi's planned visit to Pakistan would have been the culmination of the normalization process. But Gandhi's visit, tentatively scheduled for the first half of this year, has been postponed indefinitely following India's accusation of Pakistan's support for Sikh militants in Punjab state.

Meanwhile, during talks between the Indian Prime Minister and Sri Lankan President Junius Richard Jayawardene, the broad outlines of a political settlement to Sri Lanka's ethnic problem were agreed on.

All these positive results demonstrate the good intentions and determination of the leaders of the seven SAARC countries to promote their co-operation, as stated in the "Bangalore Declaration" adopted at the end of the meeting. The declaration says the heads of the seven SAARC member countries reaffirm the wish of their peoples and governments to work together in accordance with the SAARC charter to devise common appro-

The seven heads of the member states of SAARC at the opening ceremony.



aches to finding common solutions to shared problems.

The meeting can be said to have been a successful one. As Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom stressed, the

progress made in strengthening the association may continue to be slow, but SAARC nevertheless represents the goodwill of the people of the region. ■

by Tan Renxia

the United Nations, and by the major powers of both East and West. US\$450 million in loans has been promised to Chad this year by a number of Western countries and by the African Development Bank.

Third, there has been internal dissension within the Goukouni ranks. In the past two years many of Goukouni's supporters have either betrayed him by going over to Habre or have simply deserted him. And those who still follow him are fighting one another. Recently Goukouni's forces have been further weakened by heavy fighting between troops loyal to him and others loyal to Acheikh Ibn Oumar, leader of another rebel faction that broke away from GUNT. Goukouni, though ostensibly head of GUNT, has reportedly no freedom of action.

Libya has a force of several thousand men stationed in northern Chad, where it has built a large airport. Reports say that the Chadians in the occupied areas have risen several times against their "occupationists" but have been ruthlessly suppressed. In late October and early November Libya bombed these areas, causing heavy casualties. The Chadian government has appealed to the international community to "condemn the atrocities of the occupationists."

France has an air force unit in Chad to secure the areas south of the 16th parallel, which divides the country into two parts. It has increased aid to Chad because of the tense situation in the north. The United States has also sent military advisers to Chad. On the other hand, Libyan leader Col. Gaddafi has declared that Libyan forces will not withdraw from Chad as long as a single French soldier remains there.

The process of restoring unity to Chad will not be an easy one so long as foreign forces are not removed. However, as the latest developments show, hopes for a unified Chad have brightened. ■

by Sun Xingwen

CHAD

National Reconciliation Near

The situation in Chad has changed dramatically. The Goukouni rebels now support the government and a round-table conference to bring the civil war to an end is under way.

Following his appeal on October 16 to hold unconditional consultations with Chadian President Hissene Habre on national reconciliation, the leader of the Libya-based anti-government forces, Goukouni Oueddei, was "put under house arrest," and later "seriously wounded" in clashes with the Libyan soldiers who took him into custody. Kailan Ahmet, a Goukouni representative, told reporters in Paris on October 30 that Libya was now bombing Goukouni's troops and searching out his collaborators. On November 12 Habre announced that Goukouni's forces "are no longer in the service of Libya" and that a meeting between his government and Goukouni's deputy "is going on quite smoothly." On November 16 Goukouni's Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT) proposed holding a round-table conference in Brazzaville, capital of the Congo, to seek a political solution to Chad's civil war, to which President Habre responded positively.

Goukouni, the former leader of Chad's interim GUNT, was deposed by Habre in June 1982 and thereafter retreated to northern Chad. With Libya's backing, he refused to meet Habre and to recognize the legitimacy of the Habre government. What, then, has made Goukouni turn around and defy Libya?

The first explanation probably

lies in the fact that national reconciliation has become an irreversible trend in Chad. Over the last two decades the people of Chad have grown increasingly weary of the endless war, and now thirst for peace. The Habre government has, since assuming office, adhered to the principles of national reconciliation and territorial integrity, and actively engaged in dialogue with the various opposition factions. Since the end of last year, more than 3,000 guerrillas in the south have walked out of the bush in which they were hiding to join the government's forces, bringing peace to the south first. And the government itself, with the assistance of certain African countries such as Gabon, has come to terms with two influential opposition factions, the Committee of Action and Co-ordination and the Chad Democratic Front. Mahamat Senossi, president of the former organization, and Negue Djogo, head of the latter, were appointed by Habre as minister of education and minister of justice respectively. In addition, Habre has released all political prisoners. All this has brought positive results, including the return to Ndjamená of many important members of GUNT from abroad.

Second, the Habre government has been widely recognized by the international community—by regional organizations, such as the Organization of African Unity, by

ACADEMIC DISCUSSION

A Probe Into Theories Backing China's Reform

Sponsored by the China Historical Materialism Study Society, a recent symposium on historical materialism and reality discussed the following questions:

Theoretical Basis for Reform

It was suggested that the principle of material interest is at the heart of China's current reforms. It is the basic motivation for people's productive and everyday activities. What people think, say, and do are all linked to, and dominated by, their notion of this interest. This same principle on a national scale calls for the socialist economy to accommodate a planned commodity economy. It also requires remuneration to be closely aligned to the amount and achievements of work done. In economic management it requires the relationship between the state, the collective and the individual to be adjusted rationally, and power to be aligned with responsibility and rights to gains.

Most of the participants argued that the theory of the basic contradictions of society (between the relations of production and productive forces and between the superstructure and the economic base which result in the advancement of both) should also be the theoretical basis for the reforms. In the current stage of China's development, they said, certain links and aspects that are incompatible with the growth of its productive forces exist in both the relations of production and the superstructure. Some are drawbacks left over from the old society and some are new problems arising during the course of development of socialism. These contradictions are non-antagonistic and may be resolved through reform. Given this, the reforms should be guided by the overall theory on the basic

contradictions of society, since the reforms can only be completed through the operation of those contradictions.

Some participants held that since China's reform is a comprehensive, multi-layered social reform, the theoretical basis for the reform should also be pluralistic and multi-layered. While the theory of the basic contradictions of society is fundamental, a pluralistic theoretical basis could be used to guide the different layers of the reforms.

For instance, the direct theoretical basis that guides the economic structural reform is the theory of the planned commodity economy while the various reforms involved in the economic system, such as the reforms of the market and pricing systems, each has its own guiding thought. The theoretical basis that guides the country's political structural reform is the theory of building a high-level socialist democracy, while the theoretical basis that guides the ideological and cultural reforms is the theory of simultaneously building a high level of material civilization and socialist culture and ethics.

Nature of China's Present-Stage Planned Commodity Economy

It was said that according to Marxist theory the three major social formations (pre-capitalist, capitalist and communist) could only be based on the natural economy, the commodity economy and the product economy respectively, so the commodity economy can only belong to a society categorized as capitalist. To develop fully the commodity economy and create conditions for its passing is the mission history entrusts to the capitalist class through the

capitalist system. However, for various historical reasons, the capitalist class may be eliminated before its historical task is fulfilled. In this case, the proletariat will take over that mission and that is what the Chinese people are doing now.

The majority opinion was that the commodity economy emerged several thousand years before the birth of capitalism and will remain for a long time in the post-capitalist, socialist society. Given this, it should not be considered particular to any specific social formation. The nature of the commodity economy depends on the dominant mode of production, primarily the type of ownership of the means of production in any given context.

What gives China's planned commodity economy a socialist nature is 1) that it is based on socialist public ownership; 2) that production is dominated by a planned economy and is subject to the laws governing the development of the socialist economy, while the development of the capitalist commodity economy is spontaneous and unplanned; 3) that wealth is distributed according to work, not like the capitalist commodity economy where distribution is according to capital; and 4) the socialist commodity economy is capable of constantly dealing with "alienating" problems and contradictions that arise, while the progress of the capitalist commodity economy constantly reproduces such problems unchecked.

Some participants argued that since the planned commodity economy is neither entirely socialist nor purely capitalist, it should be considered as having a dual nature. It may grow within a system of public ownership of the means of production where the

socialist state can modify its development and handle its problems. At the same time it has a certain degree of spontaneity and blindness which is characteristic of all commodity production, and may tend towards the blind proliferation of the capitalist commodity economy. So measures must be taken to strengthen its management to prevent the socialist commodity economy from going out of control.

The Relationship Between the Development of a Planned Commodity Economy and the Advancement of Socialist Culture and Ethics

One opinion expressed was that since at the heart of the commodity economy is self-centred egoism while socialist ethics require serving the collective; the commodity economy and building socialist ethics are contradictory and mutually exclusive. Thus, since it is necessary to develop the commodity economy, within certain limits, its anti-social phenomena should be allowed to

exist and not be eliminated artificially.

An opposite view denied the contradiction. Developing a commodity economy, it said, acts to eliminate patriarchal behaviour, to undermine the practice of abusing power for personal interest, and to destroy a sense of hierarchy and other remnant feudal ideas. Developing the commodity economy also plays no negligible role in eradicating the parochialism of small production and increasing people's sense of time, competition and efficiency. It also provides a solid material foundation necessary for the development of an advanced socialist culture and ideology as only it can. The efforts to develop the commodity economy and to spread socialist ethics should go hand in hand.

The majority view was that developing the planned commodity economy would exert a twofold influence on the building of socialist ethics. On the one hand it would correspond with socialist ethics in opposing feudal ideology, eliminating the parochialism of small production,

promoting the development of science and culture, and changing the outlook of the people. On the other hand, it contradicts the construction of socialist ethics in its spontaneousness, and its fostering money worship, selfishness, and lack of consideration for others when one's own interest is at stake. But overall, they considered the positive role of the planned commodity economy to be primary in the building of socialist ethics.

Furthermore, they said, to prevent the growth of the negative factors of the commodity economy it is necessary to strengthen socialist ethics. This includes education in discipline, law and professional ethics among workers engaged in commodity production and education in communist ideology among Communist Party members. To strengthen socialist ethics will help ensure the proper socialist development of the planned commodity economy and the productive forces. The two are neither diametrically opposed nor unconditionally united. Rather, they interact to check and promote each other. ■

Population Policy for Minorities

by Our Correspondent Zhang Zeyu

The Chinese government has long advocated the policy of "one couple, one child" in order to keep the population under control. But the government takes a flexible attitude towards the minority nationalities to promote their natural growth.

There are 55 minority nationalities in China, and 54 of them (excluded is the Zhuang nationality which numbers 10 million) can have more than one child per couple.

Chao Ke, 56, deputy head of the

Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region's Family Planning Commission and himself a Mongolian, explained why the government instituted a special policy for the minority people.

From Decrease to Increase

The Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region is one of the largest pastoral areas in China. At 1.1 million square kilometres it covers one-ninth of China. Before

the founding of the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region in 1947, its total population was less than 1 million and was decreasing. It now has 44 minority nationalities whose population of 3 million accounts for 15.6 percent of the region's total.

Nearly 13 percent are Mongolian. Before 1947, their population was rapidly declining. It fell from 1.03 million in the early 19th century to 878,000 in 1912, a 14.7 percent drop. Between 1932 and



Zalaba and her children.

XU XIANGJUN

1947 the population fell by an average 3,200 a year to 832,000. In Chen Barag Banner (Banner: corresponding to a county) of Hulun Buir League (prefecture) before 1947, the Mongolian ethnic group's birthrate was 21.7 per thousand, the death rate however, 28.3 per thousand, which resulted in a natural growth rate of -6.6 per thousand. The infant mortality rate went as high as 295 per thousand and the average life-span was only 19.6 years.

The reasons for this were that for a long time the Mongolian people suffered a backward economy and culture under feudalism. Medical services were very poor and many diseases especially V.D. cut a swath through the region. This drastically reduced life expectancy.

Given the region's vast land area and sparse population, in 1947 the regional government began to pursue a policy that encouraged the growth of population and livestock breeding. It developed the economy, improved medical services and eliminated V.D. In 1985, the Mongolian population reached 2.74 million, 3.29 times as many as in 1947, and an average annual increase of 50,000. At the same time, the death rate has fallen from 21 per

thousand to 5 per thousand (lower than the national average of 16 per

thousand). Infant mortality has fallen from 295 per thousand to 23 per thousand; and the ethnic group's average life-span has increased from 19.6 years to 69.3.

From 1947 to 1985, the population of other minority nationalities in the region also increased as follows: the Huis 4 times; the Manchus, 15.3 times; the Daur and Ewenkis, 3.7 times; and the Oroqens, 2.5 times (from 905 in 1947 to 2,261 in 1985).

Better Education Chain

Before 1947, there were only 1,627 primary schools, 16 middle schools and not one college in the region. The number of students in primary and middle schools constituted only 2.6 percent of the region's total population, and

CHINA'S MINORITY NATIONALITIES

Achang	Hani	Maonan	Shui
Bai	Hezhen	Miao	Tajik
Benglong	Hui	Moinba	Tatar
Blang	Jing	Mongolian	Tibetan
Bonan	Jingpo	Mulam	Tu
Bouyei	Jino	Naxi	Tujia
Dai	Kazak	Nu	Uyгур
Daur	Kirgiz	Oroqen	Va
Dong	Korean	Ozbek	Xibe
Dongxiang	Lahu	Pumi	Yao
Drung	Lhoba	Qiang	Yi
Ewenki	Li	Russian	Yugur
Gaoshan	Lisu	Sala	Zhuang
Gelo	Manchu	She	

over 90 percent of the people never went to middle school. But by 1985, the autonomous region had 2.7 million students in 19,000 primary schools, a 12-fold increase over 1947; 1,058 million students in 1,700 middle schools, 200 times increase; and 24,000 students in 14 universities and colleges. In recent years the local government began to develop higher education for adults, and there are now 28,000 people receiving such education. To compensate for their educational handicaps, ethnic minority students have been admitted to senior middle schools and institutes of higher learning with lower marks than the Hans. Now the educational opportunities of the minority nationalities are actually better than for the Hans in the region, and in the country as a whole. (see Table I and II).

Improved Natal Care

Chao Ke stressed that nationality development not only depended on increasing its population but also on the quality of its people. This is why the minority nationalities are looking to fewer but healthier children.

The Chinese government has advocated a family planning policy, but the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region is several years behind in implementing it. In the region's cities, the minority nationality families can have two children; outside, they can have three children; and particularly small nationalities can have more children. But they do engage in family planning. In the past few years, many families have agreed to use contraceptives. The birth-rate of the minority nationalities has been reduced: it was 28.2 per thousand in 1982, 26 per thousand in 1983, 25.3 per thousand in 1984, and in 1985 it was still lower.

Keeping families smaller is a trend which is expected to continue throughout the region. In 1981, third children accounted for 33.6 percent of the total births.

in 1985 it was 20.7 percent. The following are the figures from the Huisumu township in Ewenki Nationality Autonomous Banner.

Narenqigege, head of the Ewenki Nationality Autonomous Banner's Women's Federation, said that although the government did not control their childbirth, many young couples do not want more children, because more

children will be a drain on the family's education and life-style. Wulantuoya, 28, head of the Huisumu Women's Federation, is preparing to study in the region's women cadre's school. She has a son and does not want another baby, but her husband would like a daughter. It is something they will have to work out between them.

The generations in Huisumu Township watching the sports.

XU XIANGJUN



Number of Students of Minority Origin for Every 10,000 of Its Total Population (1985)

Nationalities	University	Senior Middle School	Junior Middle School	Primary School
Mongolian	7.55	74.88	156.99	337.17
Daur	17.43	118.26	239.65	308.72
Ewenki	8.58	84.98	207.24	383.73
Oroqen	17.65	93.67	238.35	325.65

Number of Students for Every 10,000 of the Total Population

(1985)

	University	Middle School	Primary School	Total
Minority Nationalities	24.1	690.5	1,554	2,268.6
The Han Nationality	8.8	630.1	1,483	2,121.9

ARTICLES

Zalaba, 36, a Mongolian, is a shepherdess in the Chen Barag Banner, Hulun Buir League. She has two boys and a girl, all at schools. She said the living standards of her family rose year by year and its average annual income has reached 10,000 yuan. She does not want another baby, and hopes all her children will be well educated. She also hopes her children can live at the school for it is 10 kilometres away from their home.

The older generations feel differently however. Generally they have more than three children and believe that it is good fortune to have many children. Bayanmamianka, 56, in Ih Ju League has eight children. When asked "Don't you think it too



SHI CHANGJIANG

Census time in a sub-district office in Hohhot, students are being registered.

many?" He said: "No, I don't think so. But I am too old to have any more." His family's average

annual income is only 1,000 yuan and it depends on government relief funds. There are only two felt blankets on the brick bed, and no furniture. He admitted that his difficulties were due to his many children.

Year	One Child	Two Children	More than Two Children
1981	19	21	56
1982	15	16	32
1983	55	21	19
1984	14	16	8
1985	27	23	23

Fostering Small Ethnic Groups

The region's government has worked out a detailed plan for fostering the very small nationalities, including the Ewenki, Daur and Oroqen nationalities.

The main points of this plan are as follows:

- Settling nomads and improving their living conditions.
- Introducing free medical care.
- Strictly forbidding excessive drinking.
- Improving pre-natal and post-natal care.
- Encouraging inter-marriage and forbidding marriage where the man and woman are closely related by blood.

Great changes have taken place since 1985 when the region began implementing these policies. Many nomads have become sedentary and there are many young mixed marriage couples. As a result, many diseases have been controlled. ■

A new children's palace in Inner Mongolia.

XU XIANGJUN



A Family's Smallness Is Its Strength

The more babies the better, and baby boys are better than girls. That was the age-old idea of the Chinese peasants. Since the early 1970s however, the Chinese government has put emphasis on spreading family planning awareness. Although the influence of traditional ideas is still widespread, farmers' attitudes towards the family are changing, especially in the developed districts. Jinxian County in Liaoning Province is one such place.

by Our Correspondent Mu Aipin

Jinxian County's population growth in 1986 will be lower than planned. One quarter of the young couples who are allowed a second child according to the county's plan have decided not to have a second child. Others are delaying the second pregnancy. In 1982 the average number of children per family in Jinxian County was 3-4. Farmers now are less anxious about having boys and more concerned to keep the number of children down and to avoid birth defects. It is the economic reforms and the improvement in living standards which have changed people's traditional attitudes.

From Big to Small

Jinxian County's total industrial and agricultural output value has increased from 434.13 million yuan in 1980 to 1,500 million yuan in 1985. Its economic structure has changed from a one-crop economy to a varied economy with agriculture, fish farming, industry and sideline production all taking their place.

Wang Zhenliang, head of Qiding Township, said: "Since implementation of the contract responsibility system, big families with members all working the family's land can no longer stimulate the initiatives of its members because the 'family pot' is no better than the 'communal pot.' With the development of the

commodity economy, and the diversification of the ways to earn money, a small family is better because it allows each family member to do things in his or her own way."

The old man, traditional head of the family, is no longer capable of playing the leading role in family production. In Jinxian County's rural areas secondary education has become universal. Most young people are better educated, have broader horizons and can adjust quickly to the requirements of commodity production. They are thus better qualified to lead than the old people.

Since the economic reforms, 50 percent of Jinxian's farmers have not worked in the fields but have begun working in township enterprises. This significantly alters the family's income pattern.

In a small family, if one of the parents is not working, it will seriously affect the family's standard of living. Lu Bo, 29, is a cashier in a township hotel. Her child has just had her first birthday. Lu said that last year she only worked for seven months, the rest she took off to have the baby. As a result, her income was reduced by 1,000 yuan. As her husband's wages are low she does not want another child.

In the rural areas, up to the time a child is sent to kindergarten at about three, young women's children are detrimental to their

work. After the birth, the husband often has to stop work to look after his wife who is "lying-in" and this is just at the time when expenses begin to soar.

Cui Shengrong, a textile worker in a township factory said: "I went to work soon after I had my child. I buy milk powder to feed my baby, but sometimes it is very difficult to buy it in the countryside. Whenever the child is ill, I have to ask for leave; as a result, my wages and bonus are reduced. So I don't want another one."

Sun Yan, 30, sat in a sofa and pointed to the lino floor, hanging lamp and modern furniture suite and said: "If I have another baby, my family will suffer. We are used to being clean and tidy. If we have another child, our life will not be as easy as it is."

Women's Position Getting Better

In the past, one of the reasons Chinese peasants had more children was in the hope of having a boy. Now in Jinxian's rural areas, the women are fighting against this feudal sexism through "practice." In Youyi Township, there are 670 households with one child, a girl; 321 have decided not to have another child.

The economic reforms bring women's skills and strengths to the fore. In Jinxian County, a

woman's smallest normal annual income is 1,000 yuan, the most 5,000-6,000 yuan. A couple can each expect to bring in about the same wage. Some women pointed out that their new houses, furniture, colour televisions and refrigerators were due in part to their incomes and in part to their husbands'. It has been suggested that during the recent economic development, women's economic

position has improved. Most women have had jobs since the founding of the People's Republic. This changes women's attitude to child-bearing.

Caring for the Old

Traditionally when a woman marries, she lives with her

husband's family. With the recent changes in social values, and the improvement in women's economic position, this too has changed. Many men have gone to live with their brides' families, and many married daughters return to look after their parents.

This shows farmers that having a son is not the only guarantee for their old age. Jinxian County has begun to spread the farmer retirement system. In Youyi Township, farmers over 60 will get more than 300 yuan as a pension every year, not including the benefits they get in grain, vegetable and medical provisions. After retirement, some healthy old people continue their sideline production, and their income can be considerable.

Furthermore there are now old people's homes, and provisions allowing people to live with their children and be supported by the collective. In Jinxian County, every township has an old people's home, financed by the township and village governments. In Daweijia Township's retirement home, the annual average cost of living is 600 yuan per person, a little higher than the township's farmers' annual average income.

In Jinxian County, knowledge about preventing birth defects and scientific ways of rearing children have been spreading among young couples. Pregnancy and childbirth are no longer regarded as mysterious and embarrassing to mention. In order to meet the needs of young couples, a special school has begun teaching prenatal and child-rearing courses, in consultation with the County Education Bureau, Family Planning Commission and Women's Federation. This school also invites retired teachers to make a circuit of the towns and villages to give lessons, at the same time the county educational departments are helping the teachers of nursery schools raise their teaching standards. ■

Youyi Township's children visiting the old people's home.



Shandong Helps Its Poor Areas

by Our Correspondent Han Baocheng

Instead of relief, government aid has turned to helping poverty-stricken areas in Shandong develop their economy. This has improved the lives of 10 million farmers, or 14 percent of Shandong Province's poor. Here we examine the progress made in Shandong's aid work.

Since China introduced rural economic reforms in 1979, the lives of the majority of its 800 million rural people have markedly improved. However, there are still 60 million living below the poverty line, with an average annual income of RMB 150 yuan and 200 kg of food grains.

This correspondent recently visited the Yimeng mountainous area in southern Shandong Province. At Xiaoxia Village, my hostess asked me to sit on a log outside her house. I realized she could not have treated her guest better as her stone house was dilapidated and looked quite unsafe, and the paper-pasted windows deprived the smoke-blackened rooms of a single ray of light.

This woman, Wang Yuanying, is 50 and a widow. Her son, a worker in a factory in the county town, frequently sends back money to help his mother, so Wang is not the worst off in her village. All the 21 households in the village used to rely on state relief to survive. "This year, for the first time, we are able to eat grain grown by ourselves," Wang said.

Xiaoxia is probably the poorest Chinese village I have seen in my career as a journalist, but such villages are common in Yimeng Mountains. In 1984, of the 4.38 million people in the six counties of Linyi Prefecture (Yiyuan, Yishui, Yinah, Pingyi, Feixian and Mengyin), 1.71 million, or 42 percent, earned an average of less than 150 yuan a year and consumed an annual average of

less than 200 kg of food grains, making the prefecture the largest poverty-stricken area in Shandong Province.

However, Shandong (population 80 million) has achieved some of the greatest successes in its rural economic reforms. Last year, the province's agricultural output value amounted to 35.38 billion yuan, up more than 100 percent over 1978, and the food grain each person had averaged out at over 400 kg. The farmers' average annual income reached 408 yuan per person, four times as much as that in 1978. Why then has the Yimeng area remained so poor?

Range upon range of mountains, lack of transport facilities and a backward culture lie at the root of the problem. There is still not a single large factory in the six counties, nor is there a big city

within an area of several thousand square kilometres. By the end of 1984, 3,160 of the six counties' 5,535 villages had no bus services, 2,467 villages had no electricity, and 1,830 villages even suffered from shortages of drinking water so their able-bodied men were occupied carrying drinking water from distant places. One out of three people over 12 years old in the area was illiterate.

The Yimeng area, far from a city or a trunk road, was an important revolutionary base area during the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1937-45) and the War of Liberation (1946-49). The local people made great sacrifices for the revolution during those war years, and many villages were destroyed. In the more than 30 years since the founding of New

Lu Xuan explaining to a fellow villager how to grow haw.



China, the government has granted the area a total of 112 million yuan in relief funds, but this was only enough to keep the local people at a minimal standard of living. Although the state never stopped granting relief funds to the area, poverty remained.

Since the 1950s, the province has built many water conservancy projects, and 40 percent of its reservoirs are located in the Yimeng area. These projects have benefited people living on the plains but flooded large stretches of farmland in the process. A total of 440,000 farmers had to move out of the sites of the reservoirs and rebuild their homes. This has only added to the difficulty of developing Yimeng's economy.

Aid-the-Poor Policy

In October 1984, the Party Central Committee and the State Council issued a directive calling on the whole nation to help change the outlook of poverty-stricken areas as quickly as possible. General Secretary Hu Yaobang, Premier Zhao Ziyang and other leaders have made inspection

tours of Yimeng to urge the local governments to take immediate action to improve the situation.

This initiated a new type of assistance work—not simply providing relief but helping the poor areas develop their economy.

In addition to greatly reducing the mountainous area's agricultural tax and continuing with the relief funds for farmers living below the poverty line, the local government collected more than 56 million yuan in grants and low-interest loans last year to finance the area's capital construction, including building highways and pumping stations, erecting power transmission lines and digging and installing pump wells. In that same year, a further 1,700 out-of-the-way villages were given bus services, 124 villages were helped to deal with the problem of water supply, 294 villages received electricity, and the conditions of 5,038 primary and secondary schools markedly improved. A total of 161 villages can be said to have escaped poverty last year.

Last year, the six counties' incomes from animal by-products totalled 360 million yuan, up 18.6 percent over that of 1984. Efforts have been made to develop

cultivation and building materials production. Total income from building materials processing and farm and sideline products processing rose 36.5 percent over 1984. In the first half of this year, the income of the township enterprises increased further to 314 million yuan, up 23 percent over that of the same period last year.

The new strategy for the economic development of the mountainous area gives priority to forestry and livestock breeding. A policy has been drawn up, allowing those who contract to afforest barren hills to keep the profits, and inheritance is now allowed. This policy will remain unchanged for a long time to come. This has stimulated the farmers' enthusiasm. Last year, the farmers of the six counties afforested more than 40,000 hectares of land and planted 500 hectares of fruit trees and fast-growing saplings.

In Pingyi, one of the six counties in Yimeng, farmers are working hard to improve their lives. They build terraced fields, plant medicinal herbs, and construct roads. Although the newly built dirt roads are rough, they make travel much easier. Road building here is contracted by local farmers, with the government providing subsidies. Over the past year, the six counties have built more than 8,000 km of rural roads.

Pingyi County, which is very rocky, has built a quarry. Although the mining is still quite primitive it works. In the past, nobody here knew stone could make money. In September last year the villagers began mining stone which attracted some building materials factories in Jinan and Beijing. A cubic metre of granite now sells for 200 yuan. About 150 people in the village where the quarry is located have been involved in mining and transporting stone. This business can bring 115,000 yuan to the villagers every year.

After improving his own circumstances, Yu Zhenxi passes his skill to the people of 11 neighbouring poor villages in Heilongjiang Province.

XUE CHAO



Liu Xingwu, deputy-secretary of the Linyi prefectural Party committee, told me the Yanzhou-Shijiu Railway which crosses the prefecture was completed last year. The Shijiu Port and its neighbouring Lanshan Port are expected to have a combined handling capacity of 50 million-60 million tons a year. These key state projects should promote the economic growth of the area. "We should not miss these opportunities. The earlier we end our poverty and backwardness the better," Liu said.

Qingdao has undertaken to help Yishui and Yinan counties. A deputy mayor of the city was assigned to take charge of the work. The city government has also sent a number of delegations composed of responsible members and specialists to the two counties to help formulate plans for long- and short-term economic development projects. Priority has been given to projects which use local resources, need limited investment and yield quick returns. Some factories and scientific research institutes in the city have helped

of steel, last year it provided the two counties with 500 tons of rolled steel to help them with a number of key projects. When Qingdao was hit by typhoon last September, the farmers of the two counties shipped their best vegetables to Qingdao.

Although the agreements stipulated that technology transfer was to be paid for and that profits made by co-operative projects are to be shared by both sides, given the wretched lifestyle of the mountain people, most of the technology suppliers have given up their share of the profits.

A clothes-making factory in Xinjin county, Sichuan Province, one of 17 set up in the past year to help 500 poor families.

SUN.ZHONGJING



Support From Cities

Last year, the Shandong provincial government encouraged Qingdao, Yantai, Jinan, Zibo and other economically developed cities in the province to provide the six counties with material and technological assistance through economic co-operation. Thus far, a total of 218 agreements have been signed, and these projects are expected to add 40.85 million yuan to the mountainous area's annual output value.

the two counties make feasibility studies, choose projects, and train managerial and technical personnel. They have also transferred technologies to them.

The co-operation is conducted on the basis of mutual benefit. While assisting the poor areas with funds, technology and trained people, the industrial cities have also benefited from the raw materials and labour provided by the mountainous areas. This has helped the co-ordinated development of both urban and rural economies.

Although Qingdao itself is short

Prosperity in Sight

Since most of the cadres in the mountainous areas are aged and poorly educated, the Linyi prefectural authorities have appointed a large number of educated, capable young people as township- and village-level leaders. At the same time, more than 4,000 cadres from the prefectural and county government departments have been assigned to 1,767 poor villages.

In the Beishankou Village, 20 km from the Feixian County town, I met Li Lianju, 32, a cadre from the county town. He was working with local farmers to build terraced fields. Li said the village has 47 households and 167 people, of whom two-thirds are illiterate or semi-illiterate. There was neither running water nor a road in the village a year ago. Now not only does every household have running water, a highway has reached the village too. Li said, "The farmers here are eager to escape poverty. All they need is someone to organize and help them draw up practical plans." He said he would not go back to town before the village's annual average income reaches 200 yuan per person.

Almost miraculously some farmers in the poor Yimeng mountainous area have become

well-off in recent years. Lu Xuan, 45, a woman of the Xiaban Village, learnt the technique of raising long-haired rabbits in 1982 from a nearby scientific experimental farm. This helped her become affluent very quickly. She then taught the skill to farmers in her own and nearby villages. She also bought haw saplings for some poor families and helped many other households to raise their

incomes.

Zhou Xingbao, a soldier discharged with disability and now Party secretary of the Hongshankou Village, donated most of his demobilization pay and subsidies to his village's public welfare. Although in the past two years he has lost his wife and mother-in-law succession and he has two young children to look after, he devoted himself to leading his

fellow villagers in digging wells, building roads, planting trees and growing peanuts and other cash crops. Last year, the village's per-capita income rose from 84 yuan in 1984 to 320 yuan.

There are many other encouraging stories like these in the Yimeng mountainous area, from which we can see the local people's determination, strength and hope in their fight against poverty. ■

Army Helps With Modernization

Following Deng's 1977 directive to "train people for military and non-military departments," the army has worked hard to train its soldiers in civilian skills, making them useful for the economic construction when they are demobilized.

by Our Correspondent Lu Yun

It all began in 1977, when some soldiers in a company stationed in Jinhua District, Zhejiang Province, began to argue with their officers. The company's political instructor asked one of the soldiers, Zhang Zhongcheng, why he did so. Zhang complained: "I don't think you officers care

about us soldiers. I don't know why you don't let me learn some skills in my spare time." Zhang was keen to learn about radio, but his company could not arrange this. So the political instructor started spare-time study groups in radio, woodwork, writing and painting. All the men in the

company then took the opportunity to learn useful skills in their spare time.

By 1982, more than 2,000 men in the division had acquired specialized knowledge or professional skills in this way. At the same time, many army officers gained experience in training soldiers, and a conference was called by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in Jinhua in 1983 to popularize the experience of this and other divisions.

Deng Xiaoping, chairman of the Military Commission, issued a directive in 1977 entitled "Training people for military and non-military departments." This pointed out that China's main task is to develop the national economy and to build a modern socialist country. The PLA must therefore contribute to this economic construction.

A great number of demobilized soldiers return to civilian life each year after completing compulsory military service (three years for the army, four years for the air force and the navy). Last year the PLA was also reduced in size by 1

Teacher Feng Zhaowei (first left) guiding PLA students.



million men. Officers and men who have mastered civilian skills while in the army easily find work. Some open private shops and some take up planting and breeding with the support of the government.

Unlike a few years ago, training for work has now become part and parcel of regular army life and education. When soldiers join up, they first learn military skills and acquire some political knowledge (elementary Marxism, law and current affairs). In their last year, if their skills can be used in civilian departments, they are allowed to continue studying. Or they may be sent to a training centre at regiment or higher level to learn a skill. After six months they have to take an exam. If they pass, a graduation certificate will be awarded to them either by the army or a local technical secondary school or college.

The Brigade Training Centres

For example, a missile brigade stationed in Hebei Province has set up six training centres covering the repair of domestic electrical appliances, car repair, machine maintenance, and planting and breeding. The 183 soldiers who have been in the army for four years, and are doing extended military service, have been released to attend the centres.

There are six teachers all of them university graduates, working at the centre for appliance repair. They praise the soldiers' seriousness. Students are very active in class and often go to a teacher's dormitory to ask questions.

Wang Jie, an army bodyguard, explained why learning a skill is important to a soldier. When Wang had been in the army one year, he wrote to his relatives in Jiangxi Province, asking them what skills were most needed at home. After getting their replies, he gave up his plan to study business management and began learning how to breed chickens

instead. He also took a correspondence course in electrical appliance repair, and after a year's study knew how to repair TVs, radios, recorders and loudspeakers.

When he went home to visit his family this year, he found that one-third of local farmers had bought TV sets, but could not get them repaired. They had to travel 15 kilometres and wait a fortnight if they wanted a repair done.

When asked about his plans for the future, he said: "I plan to run a repair shop. If conditions permit, I'll also organize a class in the servicing of home appliances so that my hometown has a team of repair men."

Some battalions have started a repair service for local people so that soldiers can get practical experience. A TV repair shop in a market town with a population of 4,000 is typical. In a 16-square metre room, more than 30 televisions were stacked on a table, a bed and the floor. A technician and two soldiers were busy repairing them. Liu Jun, one of the soldiers, had already repaired over 400 appliances for local people and would soon be returning to his unit.

Many soldiers are interested in car maintenance. At the brigade training centre Qin Baosheng said: "When I am demobilized, I shall repair cars at home in Benxi, Liaoning Province, where there are many drivers but few people to repair vehicles." Huang Fumao, another soldier, recalled that when he went home to visit his family this year, a number of work units said they would like to employ him when he is demobilized.

In an army industrial school, the teacher was conducting a business management class for future factory directors and managers. Most of the 40 officers and soldiers who attended came from cities and understood its importance.

According to the brigade commander, Hou Mingxun, more than 900,000 PLA men attended

classes in 1985, and of these 550,000 passed an examination and were awarded certificates.

Senior army officers now give more consideration to where their men come from, and what kind of skills are most needed in their home towns. At least 1,900 counties and cities (half the national total) have established service departments to help demobilized soldiers find employment. In recent years, 780,000 soldiers from the countryside have found work in every walk of life. For example, a third of the better off households in Sichuan Province, are those of ex-soldiers, about 100,000 in all.

The case of Ren Yucai is interesting. When he joined the army, he had only finished junior middle school. But by 1982, before he left the army, he had read over 120 works of literature and non-fiction. He studied senior middle school subjects, including breeding techniques at the training centre. When he was demobilized, he returned home to Wenxi, Shanxi Province and applied what he had learnt to improving the traditional method of hatching chickens. Using warm water, he achieved a hatching rate of 95 percent, and reduced production costs.

Ren became "rich," paid off a 4,000 yuan loan and built a new house. Last year his income was 10,000 yuan. Over the last two years, he has voluntarily hatched 7,000 chickens for local farmers, and sent out technical information to more than 2,000 people from all over the country in answer to their queries. He has also taught 28 people to hatch chickens.

National newspapers and the radio have praised him for finding his place in life by attending to the needs of ordinary people. He has written a book, *A New Method of Hatching* based on his practical experience, which is soon to come off the press. He has even written two short novels. "Deng's directive has given me a golden rice bowl," Ren commented. ■

Principles of Marxism Not Outdated

"GONGREN RIBAO"
(Workers' Daily)

There are two erroneous attitudes towards Marxism.

One takes the view that Marxism was born over a century ago and therefore it cannot apply to the present.

The other treats Marxism as a rigid dogma and considers that no tenet and conclusion in the classical works of Marxism can be modified no matter what changes have occurred in historical conditions and regardless of the actual situation in China.

True, Marxism was born more than 100 years ago, but it is a science that constantly enriches and develops itself in keeping with historical and scientific advances. It constantly opens up new avenues to truth. Karl Marx and Frederick Engels pointed out in the Preface to the 1872 German Edition of the *Manifesto of the Communist Party*, "However much the state of things may have altered during the last twenty-five years, the general principles laid down in this Manifesto are, on the whole, as correct today as ever. Here and there some detail might be improved. The practical application of the Principles will depend, as the Manifesto itself states, everywhere and at all times, on the historical conditions for the time being existing. . . ."

We may say the following of the theoretical content of Marxism:

—The fundamental tenets and methodology of Marxism are the scientific generalization and summing up of the universal laws of the development of society and thought, and represent objective truth. They have been proved correct in practice many times, and must remain true for all time.

—Particular judgments, conclusions and proofs in relation

to certain problems may no longer apply and have lost their value with changes in concrete conditions, but the authors' guiding ideology, or their world viewpoint and method of analysis in solving problems, still has significance for present and future generations.

—Because of the inevitable limitations of time and social conditions, some of Marxist ideas about the future society are bound to be revised in the course of practice, but the general trend and orientation of historical development demonstrated by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels still tally with the way things are actually going. The tremendous changes that have taken place and are taking place in China and the rest of the world prove that Marxism is not an outmoded theory but, on the contrary, one that has been enriched and developed through practice.

Since the birth of Marxism, there have always been people who say "Marxism is an outmoded theory" whenever some new conditions or problems emerged in the course of history. Their purpose was always to replace Marxism with some other doctrines.

However, there are special reasons for the emergence of the view that Marxism is an outmoded theory in China. The Party has made "left" mistakes in its guiding

ideology ever since the 1950s, which went to extremes during the "cultural revolution." These mistakes were committed because the Party misunderstood or dogmatized certain conclusions and proofs in the Marxist classics and took them as the "theoretical basis." Therefore, when the Party corrected its "left" mistakes and set its guiding ideology back on the right course, some people went to the other extreme of considering Marxism to be an outmoded theory of no use. They fail to understand that the Party has made amends and what went wrong was bogus Marxism or dogmatic Marxism, and that genuine, scientific Marxist theory has been developed in the course of bringing order out of chaos.

Again, as the Party and country began to pursue a policy of opening up to the outside world, various ideological trends have made their way into China from the West and this has influenced some people.

There is nothing to be afraid of in making contact with foreign ideas. Marxism has gone through repeated trials of strength with other doctrines, while assimilating new developments and trends of thought. But some people are incapable of dealing with foreign ideas correctly—they are not proficient in analysing them and blindly worship bourgeois philosophies and social doctrines. It is for this reason that they take a sceptical attitude towards Marxism, and even negate it. ■

Looking After the Old Is a Social Duty

"ZHONGGUO LAONIAN"
(China's Elderly)

Zhang Youyu, a well-known Chinese jurist, recently wrote in an article, "Under socialism, the means of production are mostly owned by the whole people and by

collectives, only a few by individuals. All old people have made and continue to make a contribution to society. Although they have withdrawn from productive work, they are still doing a great deal of subsidiary works for society. Therefore, the society has a responsibility to protect the elderly."

"The legitimate rights and interests of older people fall into two categories. One is their civil rights and interests, including the fundamental rights and duties of citizens as laid down in the Constitution. The other embraces the special rights that elderly people enjoy. For example, the Constitution stipulates that citizens of the People's Republic of China have the right to material assistance from the state and society when they are old, ill or disabled. The state also prescribes by law the retirement arrangements for workers and staff in enterprises and for state officials. The livelihood of retired personnel is guaranteed by the state and by society: parents have a duty to rear and educate their children, and children who have come of age

have a duty to support and assist their parents, and so on," the lawyer said.

"Special articles covering the rights of the elderly are also written into the General Principles of the Civil Code, the Criminal Law, the Marriage Law and the Inheritance Law. If we adhere to these principles and frame special regulation to cover elderly people, we can deal with their needs," Zhang Youyu continued.

"What should we do now to protect the rights and interests of the elderly? Firstly, crimes must be punished according to law. But in real life family disputes are not usually straight forward affairs. It is very difficult to make a clear distinction between questions of law and questions of morality. Few family disputes represent

legal problems; mostly they involve moral questions. So socialist moral and ideological education is more important than the imposition of legal sanctions." Zhang Youyu said.

"Besides legal regulations, China has also taken a number of measures to protect the aged, such as the introduction of the pension scheme, and the policy of the 'five guarantees'— regarding foods, clothing, medical care, housing and burial expenses—, social insurance and public health services. It has also built old folk's homes, 'universities' or 'colleges' for old people, cultural centres and special units to provide services for the elderly. All these are aimed at satisfying the elderly's demands for material and cultural life," Zhang concluded. ■

China Needs More Worker-Technicians

"JINGJI RIBAO"

(Economic Daily)

Skilled workers are as important as scientists and engineers in promoting technological development. No new product can be developed without the labour of skilled workers.

In the 1950s and the beginning of the 60s, China successfully applied the advanced know-how of skilled workers and this pushed forward the technological innovation campaign and achieved good results. In the present situation, it is also very important correctly to understand and value the role of skilled workers in production.

But some business leaders in China fail to understand this. From their point of view, given modern equipment, it is easy to make products of high quality. They pay little attention to the training of operatives. This is one

of the main reasons for the shortage of qualified technical personnel in some enterprises.

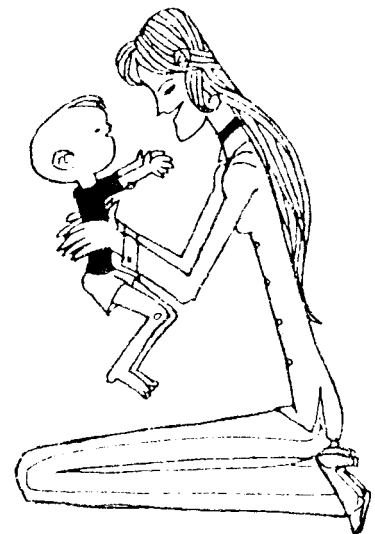
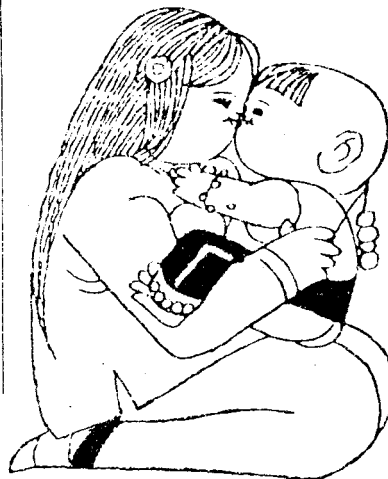
Speeding up the training of a new generation of skilled workers is a task that brooks no delay. Government departments and enterprises throughout the country must select good workers who are diligent and eager to learn and be bold in raising a new generation of worker-technicians.

There is an unhealthy tendency

to regard a diploma as superior to practical experience. This attitude militates against the development of the ranks of worker-technicians. Formerly, there were worker-engineers in China. Nobody bothered whether they had a diploma. What counted was their actual technical competence and skill at work.

In a word, we must, in our published policies, regulations and articles in the press, arouse a desire on the part of the workers to study. Then a new generation of technicians of worker origin will gradually emerge. ■

Like mother like son.



BY FA NAIGUANG

Sino-Japanese Co-operation

The Shanghai Scientific and Technological Committee and the Japan International Corporation Agency signed an agreement in early November on co-operation in building a bridge over the Huangpu River.

According to the agreement, next year experts and scientific and technical personnel will study the possibility of constructing the bridge and make a suggestion about its location and structure.

This is one of many such agreements signed this year. Others include introducing technology on computerized data bases for patent information and for educational use, constructing the Guanying reservoir and modernizing some factories. There is another group of agreements soon to be concluded.

Since a government agreement on scientific and technical co-operation was signed in 1980, scientists and technicians from the two countries have co-operated on more than a dozen technical projects. The construction of the Tianjin management training centre was started on March 15 this year. The Chinese side provides 13,000 square metres of land and is responsible for constructing a teaching building, an office building, dormitory buildings and a symposium hall, while the Japanese side offers teaching materials, books, computers and video equipment, and is charged with training the Chinese teachers. The management, consultation and other classes have started already, and the centre is one of the most important for training managerial personnel for modern enterprises.

Another technical co-operation project between the two countries is the Anqing copper prospecting

project. The project was completed in mid-September and was awarded for its excellent work. The two countries have embarked on more than 30 co-operation projects.

Some progress was made in the niobium extraction from liquid iron project and in the joint research project on antibiotics for medical and farming use. China has applied for patent rights in several countries based on these projects.

In the last few years the Japanese government has provided some machines and instruments gratis to China every year through scientific and technical co-operation and money for study tours to Japan. Thus far China has sent 1,500 graduate students to research 300 subjects. At the same time China has invited more than 500 Japanese experts to work in China or to exchange science and technology. They have contributed to China's scientific and technological development. ■

by Liu Yongxiang



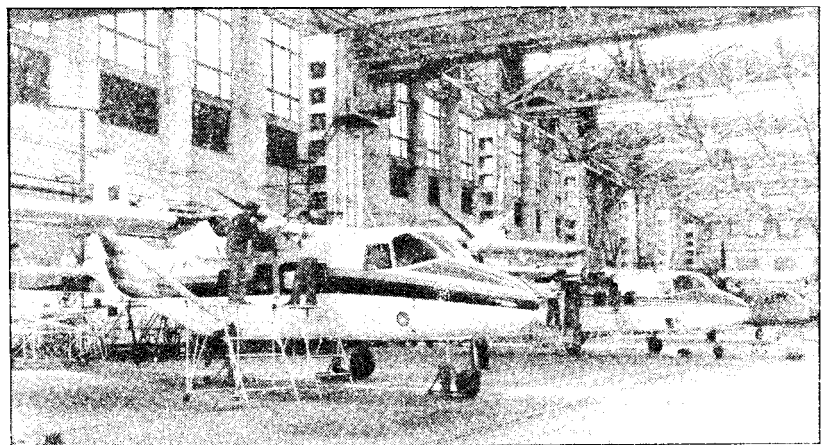
China Exports Civil Planes

In mid-November, China exported its first two Yun-12 civil aeroplanes. Another four will be delivered by the end of this year. Much interest has been shown in the plane, over 20 countries have asked about its price.

The Yun-12 planes were flown to the United States in December 1985 to undergo tests there. The US aviation department certificated the plane, as being up to US standards.

The Yun-12 aeroplanes being assembled.

HU WEI



The Yun-12 plane has many functions. Designed in China and produced by the Harbin Aircraft Manufacturing Company, it is suitable for short-distance passenger and freight flights, making drops, geological prospecting, farming use, and looking for shoals of fish. With a maximum weight of 5.3 tons, it can carry 17 passengers. Its maximum speed is 328 kilometres per hour, and its flying height is 6,000 metres. ■

Co-operation With USSR Resumed

Economic and technical co-operation between China and the Soviet Union, suspended for more than 20 years, are now being resumed. By the end of October foreign trade organizations from the two countries signed a contract in Beijing for building two electrical transmission lines in north and northeast China.

This contract was signed in line with the agreement on economic and technical co-operation in helping China to build and transform industrial projects concluded by the two countries in July 1985. The agreement stipulates that the Soviet Union will help China build seven industrial projects and update technology of 17 metallurgical, machinery and light industrial projects. This is the first long-term agreement on economic and technical co-operation (1986-90) signed since relations were suspended in the late 1950s.

The Soviet Union will provide the central equipment, wire and rolled steel needed for the transmission lines. The Soviets will deliver these goods in three years beginning 1987 and will send specialists to help install them. China will send technicians to the Soviet Union for appropriate training.

At the same time the two countries also signed a contract for 10 210,000-kw generating sets for the four power stations in Heilongjiang and Shandong provinces according to the Sino-Soviet agreement on exchange goods and payment in 1986-90. ■

by Yao Jianguo

Tourist Exhibition

China is going to hold its first tourist exhibition between December 4-7 in Beijing. Hotels, civil aviation bureaus and travel services in 29 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions and in Hong Kong will take part in the exhibition.

Covering a floor space of 2,600 square metres, the exhibition will tell of tourist resources through pictures, video recordings and models. It will also introduce tourist routes and centres, including the newly-weds tour, the fishing tour, the ancient Grand Canal tour, the health tour to the Lake Taihu in east China, the grasslands tour, the hunting tour, the ice lantern festival tour in northeast China, the desert tour, the Silk Road tour, the motorcycle tour in northwest China, the tour to minority areas in southwest China and the tour of the Three Gorges on the Changjiang River. In addition there are tours to Shaolin Temple in Henan, a sacred place and a home of Chinese kungfu and to Mongolian yurts. On the display are also models of a city with houses built in different styles to be filmed in Jilin Province, northeast China, and a grape vine on a tressle of Xinjiang in northwest China.

The exhibition is sponsored by the China International Travel Service. More than 400 businessmen from a dozen countries will come on that occasion to hold talks and agree tourist arrangements with China for next year. ■

by Yao Jianguo

News in Brief

■ China has begun producing two 900-hp freeze fishing boats for the Islamic Republic of Mauritania having made the winning bid. The two boats are expected to be delivered by the end of April and May 1987.

■ China National Aviation Industrial Import and Export Corp. recently signed a contract with a Swedish firm for exporting mini aviation software and transferring technology concerned. This is the first time for China to sell such software to Europe. Convenient and practical, this kind of software is used in aeroplanes, missiles, ships, buses, machinery and building design and production.

■ The first Sino-Malaysian joint venture went into operation on November 7. The venture mainly produces spring mattresses. It will produce 30,000 mattresses a year. It is expected to make a profit of one million yuan a year and to recoup the investment in two years.

■ A contract for establishing Beijing New Epoch Hotel Co. Ltd. in Beijing was signed on October 20 by Beijing Xiyuan Hotel, Beijing Trust and Consultative Co. of the Bank of China, Japan's All Nippon Airways Co. Ltd. and C. Itoch & C. Ltd. The company needs investment of US\$77 million and has a registered capital of US\$19.25 million. The Chinese will invest 60 percent and Japanese 40 percent of the total capital. The co-operation period is 18 years.

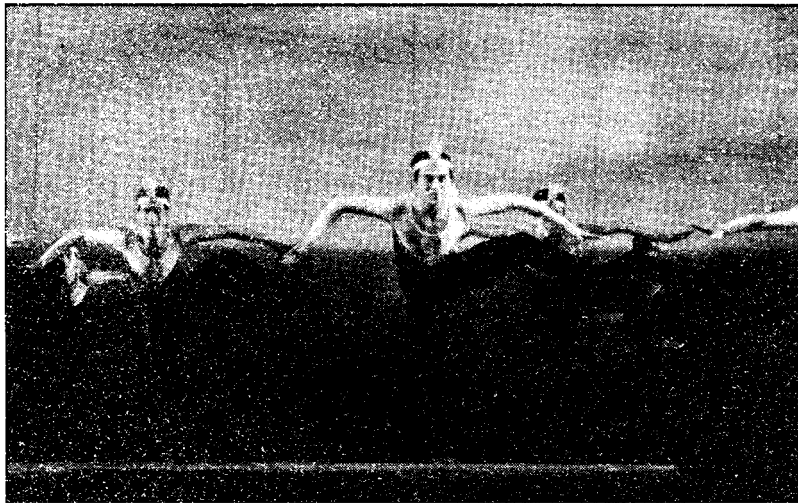
The New Epoch company will build a hotel and an office building in Beijing with a total floor space of 106,000 square metres. The hotel will have 960 suites and rooms, multifunction halls, restaurants serving Chinese, Western and Japanese foods, bars, cafes, shops and a health centre. Its construction will start in the second half of 1987 and will be completed by the end of 1989.

China's 2nd Dance Competition a Success

Folk dance, modern dance, traditional dance, classical dance—each with their own ethnic and local characteristics, and all of them original—featured at China's Second Dance Competition held in Beijing recently.

More than 800 artists of 23 nationalities, the winners of

spirit of modern man, or historical, usually representing a national hero. Others satirized social evils. The psychological impact of a dance was a general concern in nearly all the programmes presented. One got the impression that dancers have borrowed from various other art forms to good effect.



"Petrel"

WU JIAOU

preliminary contests, came from all over the country to compete in 122 performances for medals for the best individual dancers, pas de deux, group dances and for choreography and directorship.

Great progress has been made in China's dance since the first competition six years ago. "Chinese dance has freed itself from stereotypes," says Wu Xiaobang, president of the Chinese Dancers' Association. "It has liberated itself from oversimplicity and political restrictions. Its thematic scope has been widened and it is more varied in technique. Moreover, it has found a deeper message, i.e., that of humanism."

Wu believes that China's national dances have entered a new era. Most of those at the competition tended to be either 'psychological,' expressing the

For example, "Chapter of Love" is a free-styled symphonic poem; while "Soldiers at the Battle Front" is a prose poem praising the heroic fighters dedicated to preserving the peace of the motherland. "Rivulets, Rivers and Seas," a lyric poem, depicts brooks running towards rivers which in turn are carried to the open sea: its artistic effect is more important than what it describes. "Precious Jar," on the other hand, is a harsh satirical poem aimed specifically at greedy people.

The classical dances at the competition were all refreshing, appealing to modern taste, whereas the folk dances gave a new image of people's everyday lives. "Eight Saints," also based on a traditional theme, extols certain historical characters while also suggesting the importance of humanism.

The modern dances were also successful. "The Soul of the Yellow River," generally regarded as the best among the modern dances at the competition, was choreographed on the basis of the work of boatmen. Their muscular movements, serene against a serene background, create a unity symbolizing the staunch and indefatigable spirit of the Chinese people.

The competition revealed changes in China's folk dance, too. It was once considered that this form of dance should be preserved as it is without change, but not so at the competition. "Soul of a Peacock," for example, a solo-dance, depicts a peacock playing by a stream. Based on a traditional dance of the Dai nationality, who are good at limb movements, the dance has become a favourite of many artists. The dancer, Yang Liping, of Bai nationality, was the only artist to win two prizes, in choreography and in dancing.

"Soul of a Peacock"

YANG LIMING



Many other skilful dancers emerged from the competition. For example, Liu Min, a prize winner, portrayed an exploited woman of the old days, Sister Xiang Lin, in Lu Xun's famous short story "New Year's Sacrifice." The stage settings are simple, as is the dancing itself. She

was able to convey the miseries of a deserted woman through her understanding of the character, through her dancing and, above all, through her eyes.

It was the consensus of the judges that most performances surpassed the expectations of their choreographers. Nevertheless,

there is still a lack of really exciting, first-rate performances. Many characters in the dances tended to be both isolated and uniform, and the dances were more or less imitative of one another. People look forward to seeing improvements at the next dance competition. ■

Chinese Literary Criticism Flourishes

As contingent of literary criticism has expanded, and new theories on literature have been expounded in new ways, so has China experienced an unprecedented flowering in its literary criticism. Wand Meng, newly appointed minister of culture and vice-chairman of the Chinese Writers' Association, said Chinese literary criticism seems more fresh, lively and vigorous than literary creation itself.

At present, about 30 magazines of literary criticism are published across the country, a seven-fold increase over the decade of the "cultural revolution" (1966-76). In 1985 and 1986, for instance, the distribution volume of literary magazines sharply declined, while the figure for literary-criticism magazines went up by 20 percent. A large number of aggressive and creative young and middle-aged critics has emerged. In the Chinese Writers' Association, for example, young and middle-aged critics account for more than one-fifth of the 300 members enrolled over the last 12 months.

The past few years have seen remarkable achievements in literary criticism. In the field of aesthetics and literary theory, works written by the noted scholars of aesthetics Li Zehou, Jiang Kongyang and Zong Baihua, and a series of works by

middle-aged literary critic Liu Zaifu have been published. Liu's series of essays on the theory of character constituent have enriched the theory of the portrayal of prototypes by breaking through the stereotyped mode.

Many books on special topics have reached readers' hands. The first biographies of Wen Yiduo, Zhao Shuli, Ding Ling and Ba Jin, as well as works of literary study on Lao She and Ai Qing, have been published, so have many critical articles, including Sun Yushi's influential *Research on "Wild Grass"* which offers a general survey of Lu Xun's work, its creation and artistic sources.

The study of the classical poem has also made great strides. It is estimated that articles on poems in the Tang Dynasty (618-907); between 1976 and 1980 equalled the output between 1949 and 1976. On literary history, a three-volume work: *History of Chinese Literary Criticism* by Wang Yunxi, and *History of Modern Literature* by Tang Tao and Yan Jiayan, trace the development of modern Chinese literature.

Literary critics have begun to expand the scope of their study, and boldly touch on topics that few people have attempted before, such as trends in contemporary Chinese art and literature and the

"isolated island literature" of Shanghai during the anti-Japanese war.

Comments on some "unknown" writers, including Li Jinfa and Zhang Ailin, began to appear, while Dai Wangshu, Shen Chongwen, Xu Zhimo and Yu Dafu, who had been judged one-sidedly and mistakenly, now enjoy correct and all-round judgement.

Research in some fields, the study of which used to be rather weak, have begun developing steadily, as can be seen by the publication of China's first magazine on comparative literature. Books on literary and artistic psychology by Jin Kaicheng and Lu Shuyuan, the first such publications since New China was founded in 1949 have also appeared. Meanwhile, literary aesthetics, literary sociology are being developed.

The approaches and techniques of commenting have become varied and colourful. Yan Jiayan's *On Modern Fiction and the Theory of Literary and Artistic Trends* and He Xilai's *Literary and Artistic Trends in the New Era* employ major, comprehensive research techniques. *Chinese Literature in the 20th Century* co-authored by Huang Ziping and his colleagues, views modern and contemporary literatures as a whole and Zhao Yuan's *A Difficult Choice* reviews

present-day literary phenomena as a science. These developments demonstrate the influence of foreign literary and artistic theories on China.

Theoretical arguments and discussions are occupying many of the literary comments. In 1985 and early 1986 critics concentrated on discussing Liu Zaifu's literary theory, the theory of "searching for literary roots," and Zhang Xianliang's novel *Half a Man Is a Woman*. The discussions deal with so many topics and intrigue so many critics that more than 30

domestic and foreign newspapers have published articles about them. More than 100 articles were about the method of literary creation alone.

Although Chinese literary criticism is blossoming, the development of the various subjects is still imbalanced. Research into classical writings is rather slow and the basic theories of literature and art lack new ideas. Literary specialists pay too little attention to the comprehensive study and the historical division of literary phenomena. ■

Glad Tidings From Beijing Zoo

Beijing Zoo has successfully bred the world's first second-generation giant panda conceived through artificial insemination, said Li Yangwen, director of the zoo on November 8.

Giant panda Dandan, a four-and-a-half-year-old female also conceived by artificial means in 1981, gave birth to a cub named Lele on September 8. Dandan, the youngest mother in the zoo, did

not even know how to feed her baby. After 20 days practice, she has become a qualified mother, and now her baby weighs 2.7 kg.

Li said that a total of four cubs were born at the zoo in the breeding season this summer, two of which have survived. This makes 1986 a record not only in the total number of cubs born but also in their survival rate.

Giant panda Juanjuan, the 16-year-old mother of Dandan, gave birth to two cubs on August 28 but neither survived. However, she is lucky to have her grandchild Lele.

Another giant panda, Daidai, aged 12, had a cub on September 17, which is doing well. Daidai is more experienced than Dandan. This is her fifth litter. She carries the baby in her arms all the time, even while eating.

The sex of the two cubs cannot be determined until they are two or three years old.

Beijing Zoo got its first panda in 1955 but it was not until 1963 that the zoo managed to produce a cub. By 1977, the zoo's pandas had given birth to 10 cubs, of which seven survived.

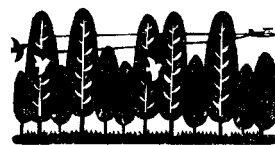
The zoo began experimenting with artificial insemination in 1978 and successfully produced the world's first panda cub using this method. So far, it has had 12 such births and eight of the cubs have survived.

Beijing Zoo has been breeding giant pandas for 23 years and has produced 22 cubs, 15 of which are still living, giving it the longest history of giant panda breeding and the highest survival rate in the world.

Beijing Zoo, founded in 1906, is the largest in China. It houses more than 600 species of animals, and attracts 12 million visitors annually. ■

Giant panda Dandan and her offspring.

LI SHUZHONG



Coastal City Takes Up Angling

At a fish banquet at the White Wave Hotel in the city of Qingdao, Shandong Province, around 100 anglers from China and abroad put chopsticks or forks to a variety of sea fish they had hooked during an angling contest sponsored by the Qingdao Travel Service and the Qingdao Fish Angling Association. This recent international invitation event was the first of its kind to be staged in China.

Records of angling in China date back to ancient times. Stories of the angler Jiang Ziya (otherwise more popularly known as Jiang Tai Gong) who lived 2,000 years ago, are passed down from generation to generation. An old book tells how Jiang began to learn to fish at the age of 72. Of an

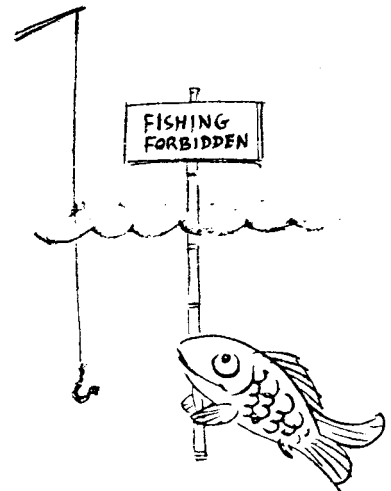
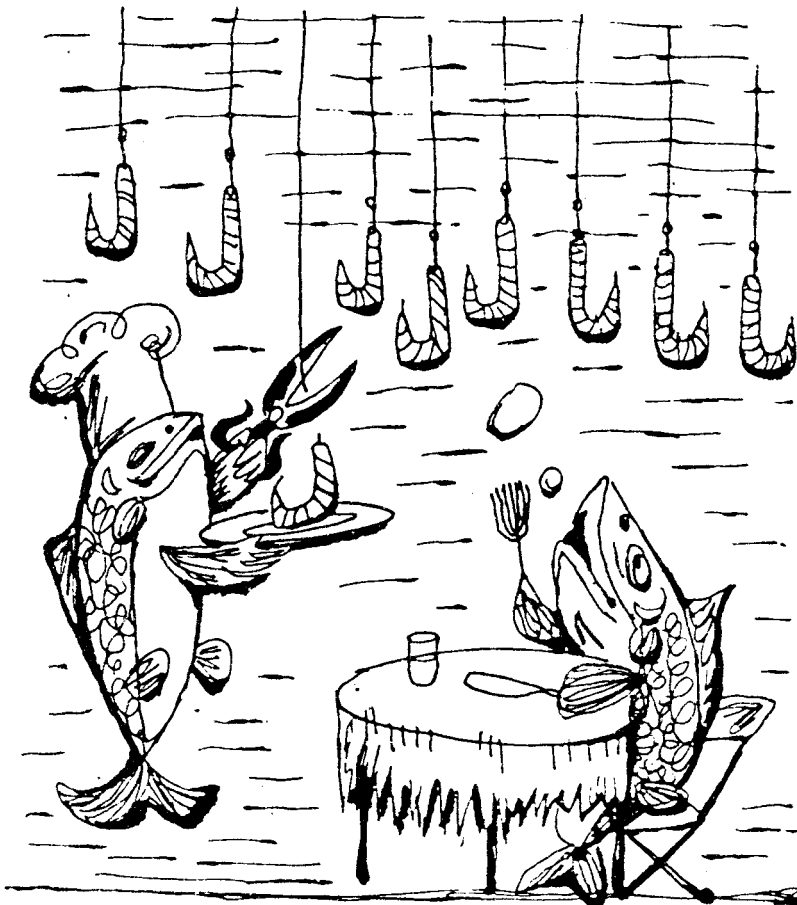
impatient character, when he had caught nothing after his first three days fishing, he became so angry that he threw all his clothes and his hat into the river. Later, under the guidance of some experienced fishermen, Jiang got the hang of angling, and many years spent sitting beside the water turned Jiang into a composed, cool-headed man, and in the end made him a historic figure.

Fishing changed from a way of earning one's living to a pastime as people have had more leisure time. After 1949, with the founding of the People's Republic of China, angling became a competitive sport both to promote friendship and to improve one's personality. In 1983 the China Angling

Association was formed. Similar associations have been set up in 18 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions. Most of the 40 million enthusiasts in China are middle-aged or elderly people, mostly retired. But more and more young people have taken it up, too.

"A Delicacy"

Cartoon by WANG SHUCHEN



Cartoon by AH DA

Qingdao is one of China's 14 coastal cities open to foreign investment. Located on the west side of the Yellow Sea, its long golden beaches provide a natural setting for anglers. Foreign competitors came from North America, Europe, Australia and Japan to the Qingdao contest, especially from Qingdao's sister cities Shimonoseki in Japan and Long Beach in the USA. Two Chinese took the first two places in the contest.

An Australian angler said he believed Qingdao was such an attraction that more and more Australian tourists would be visiting it. The Qingdao Travel Service said it was planning to introduce other activities such as fresh-water fishing as well as underwater photography and hunting on the sea bed. It would also be building a holiday centre and a large aquarium. ■

'Complete Works of Marx and Engels' Published

The 'Complete Works' are a theoretical treasure-house containing 2,000 articles, 4,000 letters and 400 other items. The works' publication will enable the Chinese to study Marxism more deeply, and to uphold and develop it in the new historical period.

The first Chinese edition of the *Complete Works of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels* has appeared from the People's Publishing House. This is a great achievement made jointly by Chinese theoretical workers, translators and publishers.

The 50-volume collection was translated from the Russian edition by the Party Central Committee's Bureau for the Translation of Works by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin. The Chinese edition differs slightly from the Russian edition. For example, Volume 44 of the Chinese edition has been supplemented with Marx's *The Inside Story of the Diplomatic History of the 18th Century*. It is one of Marx's important works, unmasking the collaboration between the Tsars and the British government, and the Tsars' expansionist policies. In addition, some of the notes have been revised and expanded.

The *Complete Works* are a theoretical treasure-house containing more than 2,000 articles and 4,000 letters written by the two great revolutionary teachers. In addition, the collection gathers together over 400 other items, including correspondence between members of Marx's family, letters to Marx and Engels from their contemporaries, transcripts of their speeches and addresses, and resolutions and documents drawn up with the help of Marx and Engels.

Their works, correspondence and the other documentary materials trace Marx and Engels' revolutionary activities and their epoch-making theoretical work in the various social sciences.

The collection is made up of three parts—the works, the correspondence and supplements.

Volumes 1 to 26 include the principal writings of Marx and Engels on philosophy, economics, scientific socialism, history and military affairs.

The correspondence in Volumes 27 to 39 brims with penetrating commentary and analysis of events. Lenin valued these letters very highly, saying that if one word could express the essence of all the correspondence, the word would be "dialectics." The first 39 volumes were published earlier than the later volumes, and for the most part have not been revised.

The last 11 volumes, Volumes 40 to 50, combine the supplements translated from the Russian version published in 1968. They can be divided into two parts. The first six volumes and part of Volume 50 contain Marx's and Engels' early works and correspondence discovered since the first 39 volumes were compiled. The last five volumes of supplements are devoted to manuscripts of Marx's *Capital*.

The early works, notably *The Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844*, show the inner world of Marx and Engels when they were young. They had already plunged themselves into the search for truth, freedom and democracy. They despised injustice, felt deep sympathy for working people, and had lofty ideals of serving mankind.

The Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts were not published until the 1930s, when they attracted worldwide attention and evoked heated debate. Theoretical workers of many countries attach importance to the *Manuscripts* and judge them from their own positions in various ways. The *Manuscripts* discuss the theory of alienation and the values of

humanism. Applying Marxist theory to explaining reforms in socialist countries, and finding correct answers to the many other questions that have arisen since their publication in the 1930s still calls for study of the *Manuscripts*.

Apart from their early works, the supplements also include works by Marx and Engels from other periods in their life. Reading them will help readers realize how Marx and Engels cared for the cause of the emancipation of the international working class, and how closely they watched changes in the world political situation. In the complexity of a new situation they examined new questions and came up with new ideas to enrich and develop their own theories.

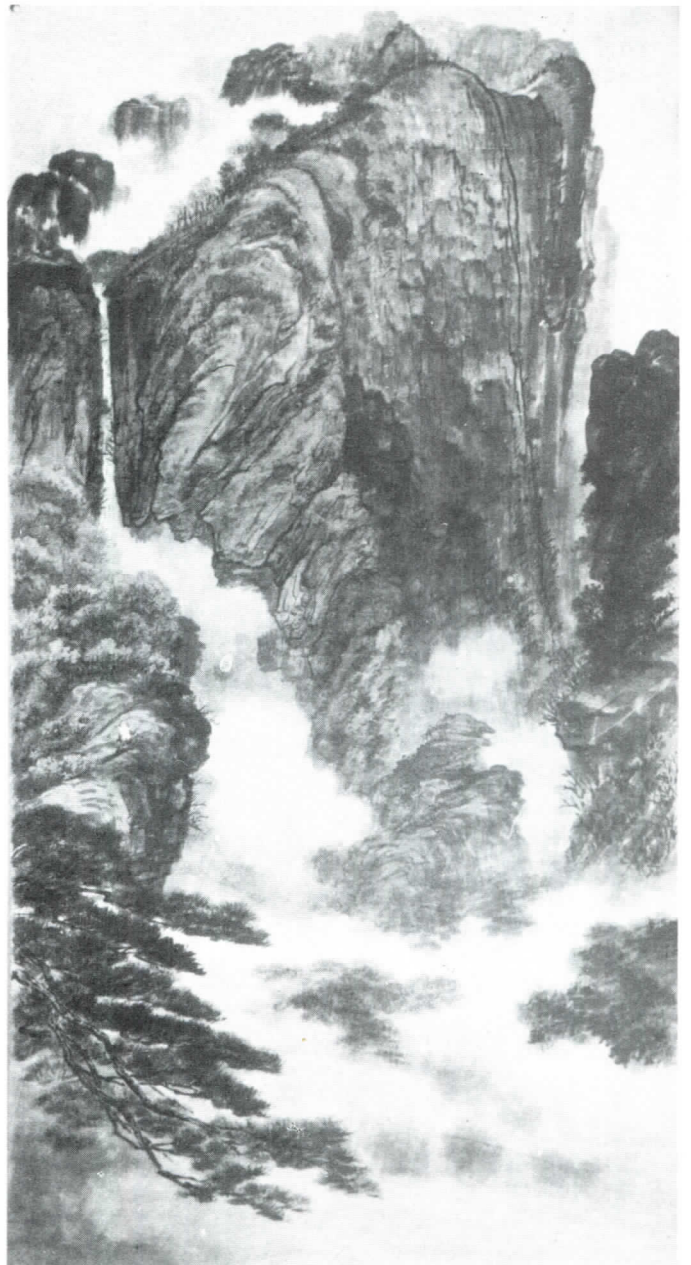
Among the supplements are also four "notes" on the history of ancient society, written by Marx between 1879 and 1881, which are of great value. In the four notes, known as "Notes on Anthropology," Marx employed dialectical materialism to analyse the origin and development of clan society, and its inevitable replacement by class society. Marx in these notes also investigated the origins of private ownership and of the state, especially in countries (in Asia, Africa and Latin America) that still retain ancient social relations. He also inquired into the development of the ownership of land in these countries, the impact of Western colonialism on them, and forecast the likely road these countries would eventually take.

The publication of the *Collected Works* will enable Chinese theoretical workers to study Marxism further, to better uphold and develop it in the new historical period. ■

by Gu Jinping, Wang Xijun



On Changbai Mountain.



Huashan Mountain.



Plum and Bamboo.

Traditional Chinese Paintings by Shi Yigong

Shi Yigong, born in Anguo County, Hebei Province in 1899, used to work at the Fine Art Department of the Chinese Art Research Institute.

He has a good command of traditional techniques drawing landscapes in bold and vigorous strokes.

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